

WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY LIBRARY



3 0399 0782285 D

WAKE FOREST
UNIVERSITY



Z. SMITH REYNOLDS LIBRARY

BX
6480
N67
H57
1992

Baptist Collection

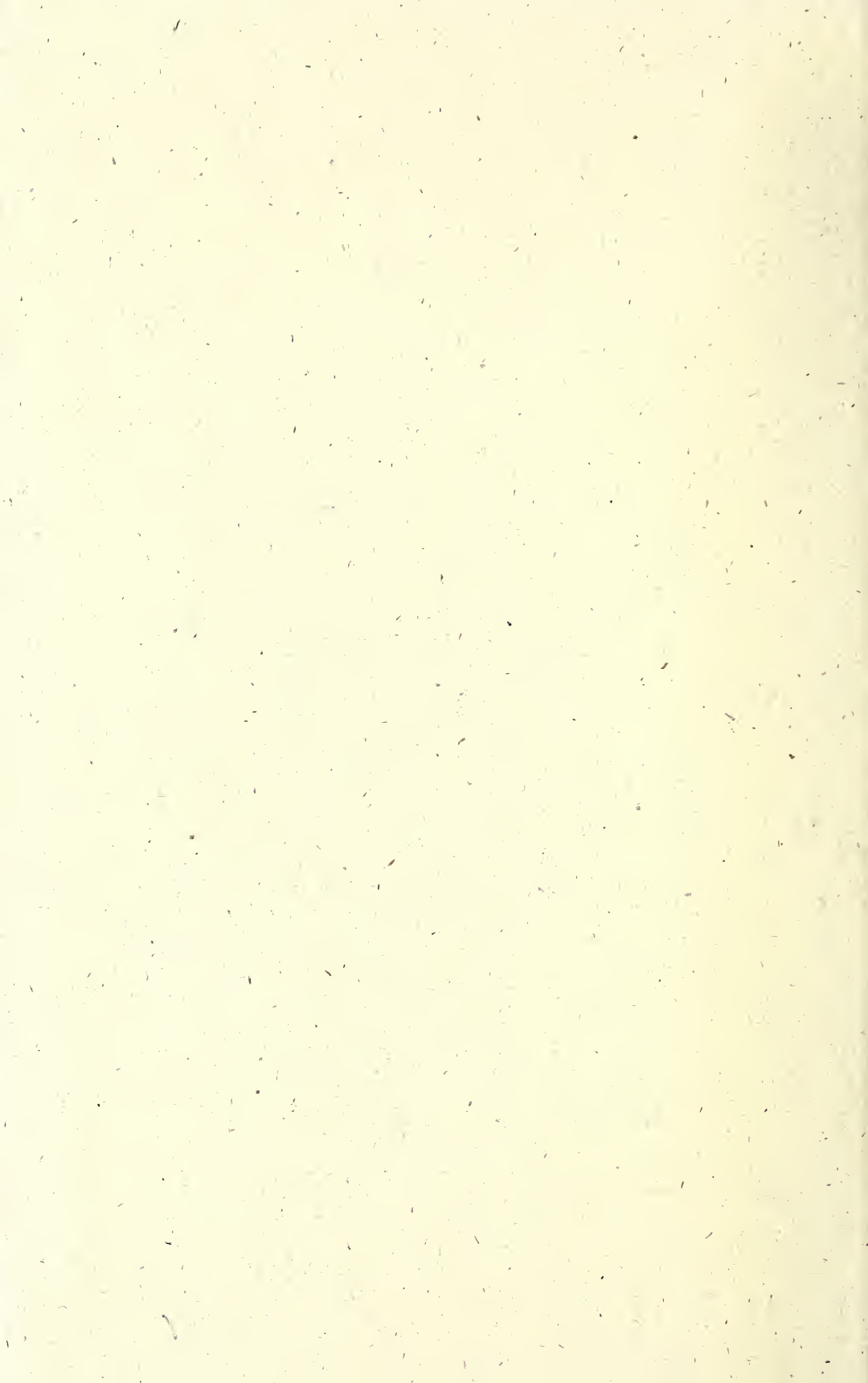
Gift of
Mr. James E. Moore

NOT TO BE CIRCULATED

A
HISTORY OF
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
1942-1992



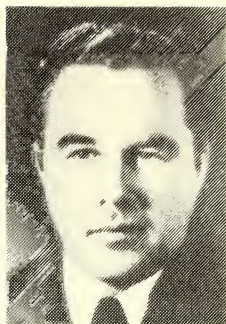
NORTH WILKESBORO, N.C.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
1942-1992



KINCHELOE



BROWNING



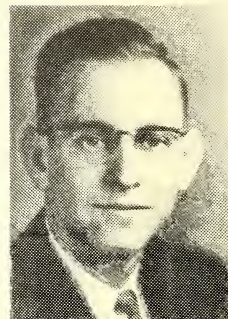
WAYLAND



WAGONER



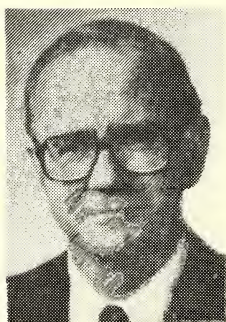
PEACOCK



SMITH



LAYMON



ROGERS



SEAL

A
HISTORY OF
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
OF
NORTH WILKESBORO
NORTH CAROLINA
1942-1992

HONORING OUR HERITAGE
TO ENHANCE OUR FUTURE

NORTH WILKESBORO
NORTH CAROLINA
1992

BX
6480
N67
H57
1992

Designed and Printed by M&M Scriveners
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE	p. 1
PREFACE	p. 3
KINCHELOE	p. 7
BROWNING	p. 9
WAYLAND	p. 13
WAGONER	p. 17
PEACOCK	p. 21
SMITH	p. 24
LAYMON	p. 32
ROGERS	p. 46
SEAL	p. 53
EPILOGUE	p. 65
NORTHSIDE	p. 66
SECOND ST. & GORDON	p. 71
LIBRARY	p. 72
SCOUTS	p. 73
MEN IN WAR	p. 76
DIACONATE	p. 79
BOARDS	p. 81
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	p. 83
MINISTERS	p. 85

CENTENNIAL COMMITTEES

General Centennial Committee Co-Chairmen

PAT M. DAY—E. JAMES MOORE

Sub-Committees

Pastoral Visitation

E. JAMES MOORE CO-CHAIRMAN

PAT M. DAY CO-CHAIRMAN

EX OFFICIO—DR. WELTON SEAL, DREW MAYBERRY

Church History

NAN H. MCNEILL CHAIRMAN

GRACE FRANK MAYBERRY, JEAN W. KIRBY; EX OFFICIO—CELIA MADDRY

Historical Memorabilia

VIVIAN GREENE CO-CHAIRMAN

HERBERT MCKENZIE CO-CHAIRMAN

LEA BARNES, WAYNE CHURCH, AMY COX, RAMONA CURTIS, MARIE
DAVIS, SHIRLEY HUFFMAN, ROBERT LANEY, CHLOE STURDIVANT,
BLANCHE TRIPLETT, C. D. WILES, EX OFFICIO—J. GREGORY WRIGHT

Liason

RAYMOND BLEVINS, PAT BUMGARNER, ANN DUNCAN, RUSSELL FERREE,
ROBERT GREENE, ANN RITA NECESSARY, BILL STRINGFIELD; EX
OFFICIO—DR. WELTON SEAL, DREW MAYBERRY

Commemorative

AILEEN BENTLEY, HAL GREENE, JANE BUMGARNER, BARBARA MCNEILL,
ALA SUE WYKE; EX OFFICIO—DR. WELTON SEAL, DREW MAYBERRY

PREFACE

As First Baptist Church celebrates its centennial on the threshold of a new century, we catch our collective breaths and reminisce about our last fifty years.

In this book, we add to the previous record. The history of the Church from 1892 to 1942 was compiled in time of war, shortly after America had been drawn into WWII by the attack on Pearl Harbor. It was time when Christian churches, including our own, were sending their sons into battle on land, on the sea, and in the air to defend freedom and the American way of life. It was a simpler time, when lines could be clearly drawn: good against evil; Americanism against fascism; Christ against the Anti-Christ, Hitler. At home here in the United States, we did what we could to support our troops abroad. With little complaint, we accepted shortages (the rationing of gas, shoes, sugar) and deprivations (no new houses, no new cars), and we prayed for victory and for our men in service. This was the way it was when First Baptist Church of North Wilkesboro observed its fiftieth birthday and wrote its history.

Since 1942, we have entered an ever-more sophisticated and complicated world. The historical First Baptist Church, while recalled with the fondness of nostalgia, is no more--is gone with the wind--and the First Baptist Church we know is, and must be, different. During the past fifty years, it has witnessed explosions of new ideas, has seen society become mobile, has been confronted by needs and problems unknown in the first half-century. In our time, to remain a viable institution, First Baptist Church has had to struggle and redefine and modify itself.

As Wilkes County has experienced rapid growth, including burgeoning industry, the influx of population, and the consolida-

tion of schools, First Baptist Church has adapted to meet these new challenges. Sometimes reluctantly, sometimes enthusiastically, we have found ways to meet fresh needs and to address new issues. Many of our leadership efforts towards charity, reform, and Christian understanding have been assimilated by time, but our physical plant testifies to the quality of our commitment. Four buildings have been erected to accommodate the expanding church family: the Education Building (1952), the Children's Building (1961), the New Sanctuary (1966), and the Wayland Building (1990). All are debt-free.

During the past fifty years, we have broadened our vision and expanded our ministries, while not losing sight of our essential nature as Baptists. In a feature in **The Journal Patriot**, E. James Moore assessed these historical adaptations:

Changing with the times, the First Baptist Church liberalized many of its practices over the years, including being one of the earliest churches to offer communion to Baptist and non-Baptist alike, to accept members from other churches who had experienced different modes of baptism other than immersion, and the election of women as deacons. As various tensions have developed in Baptist associations, the First Baptist Church has attempted to steer a middle course with leanings toward more liberal views. However, the church has retained its membership in all of the associations and strives to heal differences that may occur among Baptists, rather than enlarge upon them.

Over these five decades, our pastors, each in his own way, has left his mark on our history. For the most part, First Baptist Church has both nurtured and challenged these men of God, has seen them grow in the pulpit and has felt them goad us toward our Christian responsibilities. When they have gone on to other Christian service, we have wished them well. Though they differed substantially in style, emphasis, and vision, all have

contributed to our corporate identity today. We salute them. The history committee invited the living pastors to contribute comments and recollections of their ministries. Many of these have been incorporated into this narrative. Their memories of us have been varied, warm, and reflective. The pastors, as a group, remember that, while the financial soundness of the Church was never in question, week-to-week giving was sometimes uncertain.

The history committee is grateful also for the assistance and the support of the descendants of First Baptist families who have maintained the heritage and have extended the tradition of work established by their parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents.

We have written a history which we hope reflects a living, breathing story of a committed church--of events which were exciting, prosaic, humorous, and sad. For a history of First Baptist Church should not merely tell of buildings and budgets, but should be, after all, a story of people who have served our Lord Jesus Christ in various ways and in many capacities.

To each member who reads this fifty-year history, the challenge and the question must be, "Now under God's leadership, what do you intend to do with this church's future?"

History Committee

Nan McNeill, Chairman
Jean W. Kirby
G. F. Mayberry

THE KINCHELOE YEARS

1941-1944

This volume embraces the years 1942-1992. Fifty years ago, Dr. John W. Kincheloe had been pastor for eighteen months, having taken up his duties on February 16, 1941. The history published in 1942 surveyed the church's first half century in a straightforward manner, finding that First Baptist Church was "united in a fine spirit of fellowship." The book concludes optimistically: "Debt-free, and mindful of the many-sided obligations of a great church toward the modern world, the First Baptist Church celebrates now its 50th birthday, and looks toward the future with firm faith in God and with devotion to the work of God's kingdom."

In his introduction to that volume, in words which now aptly span all ten of the decades, Dr. Kincheloe noted that "meditation brings these early years . . . close to us, and . . . we are reminded of the faith, the discipline, the struggles, and the love which caused this church to prosper through the decades."

Dr. Kincheloe's 1942 keynote sermon set the tone for the Golden Anniversary: "Hats off to the past—Coats off to the future." Although apropos to those times, his slogan is consistent in spirit with the visionary watchwords for our 100th birthday: "Honoring our Heritage to Enhance our Future."

In an April 1991 article in **The Journal Patriot**, E. James Moore acknowledged some of the church members from Dr. Kincheloe's time who are still active. Among them were Manie Brewer Beshears; Sina Walsh; Marie Eller Davis, general pianist; and intermediate department secretary, Roscoe McNeill. Others listed by Moore, including Ancil Church, Mr. & Mrs. W. K. Sturdivant, and Ruby Blackburn, are only recently deceased.

In the **First Baptist News** for February 27, 1947, we are reminded that the Student Loan Fund was initiated during John W.

Kincheloe's term. This was a fund started to aid the education of worthy young people dedicated to Christian service.

In 1944, Dr. Kincheloe was called to the First Baptist Church in Norfolk, Virginia. He held various pastorates until his retirement in December, 1971. During his retirement he has supplied pulpits and interim pastorates. He has enjoyed travel and has attended Baptist World Alliance meetings abroad. He now lives in Richmond, Virginia.

After Dr. Kincheloe's departure, T. Sloan Guy served as interim pastor, until September 1, 1944.

THE BROWNING YEARS

1944-1947

When David (Earl) Browning was asked to recollect his tenure at First Baptist, his wife La Mena replied, stating that, in the division of labor between them, recollection always had been her forte. Her charming response becomes the basis of the record:

It was the summer of 1944 when, with diploma under arm, we were waiting in Louisville. Waiting, waiting, waiting God was seasoning us and awaiting a phone call from your recently vacated pulpit. The call came one morning from Bill Sturdivant. He was told by the president of the Seminary "I have the man. He's right here and he will work." At that time, my husband's "work," other than that of both supplying the pulpit and being pastor of a church in Louisville, consisted of sweeping halls, painting, and mowing lawns.

The two of us came by train immediately. We arrived on a Friday night, being met in Winston-Salem by Bill and Madge Sturdivant and Mr. J. E. Caudill. On Sunday, Earl was called by the congregation to be their next pastor. On returning to Louisville, we gathered up our two young sons, David and Phillip, and what worldly possessions we had. We returned by train again since a car was not in our possessions. The war was in its fourth year and a car was not a necessity.

The worldly possessions were most meager: kitchen furniture, a refrigerator, breakfast set, one bedroom set, two bookcases, a small living room table. But by the time the moving van arrived, the living room had been equipped with furniture and rug, gifts of the Caudills and Sturdivants. Later the Kilby family provided a studio couch. The very first furniture we bought was a twin bed suite for our boys. The next week began a trek to Bare-Miller for odds and ends until the big Victorian parsonage was furnished-aplenty for our needs.

The parsonage stood on the site of the present Education Building. It was a barny, victorian house with gingerbread trim. At the rear, off the kitchen, was a big L-shaped screened porch which faced the right rear of the church. This space became the church office. A double hung window provided Dr. Browning passage from the parsonage to his office. It was under these improvised conditions that Dr. Browning began, in 1946, a church newsletter, **The First Baptist News**. Previously, all announcements, committee meetings, and newsworthy items had to be announced from the pulpit or published in the Sunday bulletin.

According to surviving records, the pastor earned \$3,900 a year; the first church secretary received \$1,200; the custodian, \$660; the organist, \$180; and the choir director, \$180.

The Brownings were always interested in young people. They conducted regular fellowship sessions for them in the church and in the parsonage. Socials were always on the agenda—ball games, picnics, bowling parties, and dramatic skits. At one memorable Halloween party, Dr. Browning appeared in a western-style jacket covered with buttons—front and back, top to bottom--and announced that the closest guess to the correct number of buttons would win a prize. The winning guesser's name is not recorded.

Dr. Browning's concerns extended beyond the church into civic affairs. He challenged church members in **The First Baptist News**: "Do you still have the interests of your community at heart? New churches are going to be erected; a badly needed YMCA is going to be built; a functioning Chamber of Commerce is going to bring new industries into our community; recreational facilities for the school and community are being provided. As Christian citizens let us not be content until there are adequate facilities and full cooperation of all civic organizations in building our town and community."

Dr. Browning was able to balance the reverence and gravity of his position with a gregarious and fun-loving spirit. He made the rounds of the drug store coffee-break discussions and was not

afraid to offer an opinion there. Many who remember him recall a good-natured man who was able to laugh easily.

But he had the capacity to be as serious as a situation required. In 1946, at the State Baptist Convention, a controversy arose about moving Wake Forest College. The Reynolds Foundation had offered Wake Forest a bountiful gift to help build a new campus in Winston-Salem. Dr. Browning came out in favor of the move, saying that "an adequately endowed institution with modern facilities can send out better prepared men and women to exemplify Christian faith."

At the end of World War II, Dr. Browning reminded the membership that the returning men, though altered by their experience, were essentially the same men they had known before the war. He exhorted members to be especially proud of them and to extend them a hearty welcome home. And amidst this joy of reunion, Dr. Browning reminded the congregation of the plight of the millions of war refugees, for whose needs the Southern Baptist Convention proposed to raise \$3,500,000.

In September 1946, the church voted to purchase the property at the corner of 5th and "D" Streets for \$6,500 to build a parsonage. The old parsonage would be used for much-needed Sunday School rooms.

Music was always an integral part of Dr. Browning's services. Under the direction of Mrs. Grace (Andrew) Kilby, a dedicated choir provided many inspiring musical offerings. Mrs. Browning says that while at our church, her family learned to appreciate "good church music," an appreciation which they carried to their subsequent ministries.

In January 1946, Mildred Miller, the first church secretary, resigned. Mrs. Arnette (O. E.) Triplette assumed her duties. In February 1947, Dr. Browning accepted a call from River Road Baptist Church in Richmond, Virginia.

In remembering their days in North Wilkesboro, Mrs. Browning recalls that every Sunday, her son Phillip went to the church to

ring the bell. Amid dangling ropes, the little boy would be lifted from the floor with every peal by the heavy bell. Mrs. Browning said that Phillip has visited the church in recent years and has photographed the heavy bell to show his children.

During the interim, various churchmen from across the state filled the pulpit. Attesting to the strong and successful working relationship with our across-the-street neighbor, the First Methodist Church, is a letter to J. H. Whicker, Chairman of the Board of Deacons, from Dr. Gilbert Combs, Methodist Pastor, offering his services to our membership during this interim period.

from **FIRST BAPTIST NEWS**

1946

- Mar Mr. & Mrs. Duane Church become parents of a baby girl.
- May Archie McNeil and Johnny Lou Sebastian are married, as well as Lewis Hill Jenkins and Lucille Russell. Dean Minton and Robert E. Kerley finish high school.
- June Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Walsh have a son.
- Dec A Christmas reception is scheduled by the Brownings and preparations for 450 are made. On that particular afternoon, rain turns to ice, making streets impassable. Only 35 are able to attend. Cake and mints are sent everywhere and anywhere. It is said that the punch lasted until summer, and improved with age.

THE WAYLAND YEARS

1947-1953

Dr. John T. Wayland became pastor in September, 1947. The force of Dr. Wayland's Christian compassion for troubled people everywhere and of his firm stands on social issues quickly made his presence felt in his church and in the community. Years later, a Community College president, reflecting on Wayland's steadfastness to these commitments over a long and challenging career, dubbed him "the Patron Saint of Wilkes."

Prior to his coming to First Baptist Church, from 1944-46, Dr. Wayland had served as a Navy Chaplain, assigned to duty in Baltimore and in the Carribean. With his wife, Eunice, his sons Bruce and Terry, and his daughter Jean, he moved into the old parsonage until the new one, at the corner of D and Fifth Streets, was completed in 1948. As soon as he arrived, Dr. Wayland raised the sights and the consciousness of the Church. In 1947, many parts of the world still were struggling with the ravages of WWII. There was widespread suffering and privation. Dr. Wayland, as regional director of the Church World Service, mobilized a relief effort among nine western North Carolina counties. Church records recount that a house-to-house canvas of the Wilkesboros yielded more than 5,000 lbs. of clothing, bedding, and food, which was shipped to Europe and Asia. Our church continued to lead the relief efforts into 1949, shipping supplies wherever in the world the need was greatest.

At the same time, the Church responded to special needs here at home. In the summer of 1948, when many activities for children under sixteen had to be suspended because of the polio epidemic, the Church published special Sunday School lessons and mailed them to children. WKBC also broadcast lessons. As soon as the ban was lifted, the Church began a nursery in the old parsonage, which was renamed "the Church Annex." The building housed

the Junior through the Intermediate departments, as well. This arrangement continued there until it was sold and construction begun on the Educational Building. During this interim, these groups, with the exception of the Nursery, met at the Elementary school.

The Educational Building was begun on June 10, 1949, when the Diaconate appointed a Building Committee. The members were G. R. Andrews, J.E. Caudill, Isaac Duncan, D. E. Elledge, Mrs. C. B. Eller, Lee Edward Harris, Mrs. R. T. McNeil, and W. K. Sturdivant. The structure was ready for occupancy in December, 1952, somewhat later than anticipated because of the shortage of building materials.

On September 9, 1949, the Board of Deacons approved a new Church Constitution. It remained in effect until it was revised in 1961.

North Wilkesboro First Baptist Church had a long history of service. The WMU and BTU, particularly, continued to make notable contributions to church life. In March of 1951, the Church formed another group, for men, called "The Brotherhood." Officers elected were Ray Blevins, president; Dr. J. H. Sowder, vp/program chairman; Dorman Payne, activities vp; Conrad Shaw, membership chairman; and U. W. Foster, secretary-treasurer. The Brotherhood continues as an active organization.

In the pulpit, Dr. Wayland showed himself a man of strong convictions, unequivocally stating the positions he believed the church should adopt on many of the larger issues of the day. For example, a 1948 article in the **First Baptist News** asked, "Is it Communism or Romanism?" and answered ". . . both are a menace to our freedom. Either will rob us of our liberties." In 1949, he questioned the absence of prayer at sessions of the United Nations. In 1950, he expressed alarm at the rise of an aggressive faction within Baptist conventions which pressed a variant Baptist philosophy, one enforcing conformity. The true nature of the new dogma was demonstrated when conventions in

Arkansas and Oklahoma refused to seat messengers from churches which practiced “open” communion and “alien” immersion. Dr. Wayland reminded his flock of our Baptist heritage as a guarantor of religious freedom.

Dr. Wayland felt compelled to comment on other denominational issues, as well. Some time later, when the Southern Baptist Convention decided to stay out of the National Council of Churches, Dr. Wayland was embarrassed. “Ashamed are we to acknowledge the possibility of dirty politics in the Convention,” he called the maneuver evidence of a “[p]harasaic tendency on the part of our Convention.”

Throughout his tenure, Dr. Wayland challenged the Church to eradicate lawlessness in Wilkes. He directly attacked gambling houses, purveyors of illegal whiskey, the selling of votes, and the buying of politicians. In every election, church members were encouraged to vote for candidates who opposed corruption.

In 1953, Dr. Wayland accepted the Professorship of Religious Education at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary at Wake Forest, North Carolina. He left the Church more aware of its role in the Baptist faith and in the world at large, and he left the Church more committed to its special calling in the community.

Dr. Wayland remained on the staff of Southeastern until 1972, but he maintained a residence on the Brushy Mountains, and spent his vacations in Wilkes. Over the years, he has served several times as interim pastor for First Baptist or for Northside. The interest in community and civic affairs which marked his tenure as pastor has never waned. When he returned to Wilkes in 1972, he immediately was asked to join the faculty of the Community College. After chairing his department, he continued to teach parttime while assuming the responsibilities of Assistant Minister of First Baptist, a position he held until his retirement in 1990. In consideration of his long and steadfast service, the Church has designated him its Pastor Emeritus and the new fellowship hall bears his name.

The Waylands now maintain their principal residence in Charleston South Carolina, near family, but they still spend half the year in Wilkes.

from First Baptist Church News

- 12/17/48 A cantata, **The Christmas Story**, is presented. Soloists are Martha Lou Frazier, Peggy Nichols, Dean Minton, and John Cashion.
- 4/2/48 E. James Moore is elected president of the International Relations Club at Wake Forest College.
Dean Minton is ordained.
- 3/11/49 Cadet R. T. McNeil, Jr. is elected president of Non-Coms at Fork Union Military Academy.
- 4/22/49 Mrs. Octavia Church Stafford, sole surviving charter member, is 80 years old.
- 5/20/49 Conrad A. Shaw becomes office secretary for the summer months.
- 9/2/49 Twin girls, Martha Ray and Mary Evelyn, are born to Mr. & Mrs. Ray Carson.
Nancy Felts, Mars Hill graduate, joins office staff as Financial and Church Secretary.
- 12/25/49 Miss Betty Summers and Lomax Kilby are married in High Point.
- 3/17/50 Twin girls, Linda Kaye and Sandra Faye, are born to Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Greene.
- 3/8/51 Mr. Robert Bucknell assumes custodial duties.
- 8/24/51 Wilkes Central football players are in Boone for training session.

THE WAGONER YEARS

1954 - 1958

W. R. Wagoner first came to First Baptist Church in the summer of 1947, having been called as interim pastor after the departure of Dr. Browning and prior to the arrival of Dr. Wayland. In August of 1954, after Dr. Wayland left to join the faculty of Southeastern Seminary, Dr. Wagoner, now with his wife, Elizabeth, his daughter Anne, and his son Otis, arrived as full time pastor. He came to us from the North Winston Baptist Church in Winston-Salem. He was well-qualified to be our minister: he had graduated from Mars Hill College and from Wake Forest College, had worked toward a Masters degree at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and had received his Masters degree from Southern Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. He was finishing work on his doctorate when he accepted our call.

Some will remember the simplicity of everyday life in the mid '50's. It was a time when our country basked in relative tranquility and prosperity. This stability was reflected in the life of our church. Change came so slowly as to be barely perceptible. America had yet to understand fully its entry into the nuclear age, with that technology's implications both for progress and for destruction. Dissemination of information through television was beginning to have an impact on everyday life, with increasing numbers of living-room windows flickering with gray light from suppertime until bedtime.

Religious life was changing as well. In 1954, the motto of the Southern Baptist Convention, "A Million More in '54," reflected its commitment to enlist more Sunday School members. A religious census taken in the Wilkesboros showed that of 1,379 eligible candidates, First Baptist Church had 823 enrolled in its Sunday School. Average attendance in 1954 was 424.

Another hot issue of the day centered on Sunday School classes. Problems arose on promotion day, when it was time for some

adults to move up to a "higher" class. Dr. Wagoner, characteristically, calmed and smoothed this touchy issue by focussing on individual responsibility. In his column in **The First Baptist News** he wrote, "No one is going to be told what to do or where to go. The decision is up to the individual. After your decision is made you will not be criticized for it."

Dr. Wagoner's response to Sunday School issues also involved positive steps to improve its overall quality and its relevance. A Sunday School Workshop was initiated to better prepare teachers. Every Sunday evening, under the direction of educator J. Floyd Woodward, the next week's Sunday School lesson was elucidated for those who would teach it. Religious instruction improved perceptibly, up and down the line, beginning with the Cradle Roll, still active with the last of the crop of postwar "baby boomers."

Though there were no significant changes in the Church's physical plant during these years, farsighted leaders took steps which would allow later expansion. The purchase of the Moore property up the street from the Sanctuary was one of these significant steps during the Wagoner years. The acquisition offered the church additional expansion space for children's and youth activities while guaranteeing needed building space "when the time came" for it.

Varied programs enriched religious life for the membership during the Wagoner years. First Baptist Church held family institutes each spring for parents, in an effort to establish better family relationships by an emphasis on Christian living. The Church sponsored several outside authorities in child rearing and family counseling to conduct these seminars.

The Church staff underwent several changes. In February, 1955, after six years of service, Miss Peggy Nichols resigned as Education Director. Two months later, Mr. A. B. (Andy) Cook, Jr., was called as Director of Religious Education. A graduate of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and Southeastern Seminary, he was a native of Norfolk, Virginia. Mr. Cook and his wife, Nan, arrived

in April, 1955. During his time at First Baptist he was ordained into the ministry.

Despite the slow pace and basic conformity of the times, First Baptist Church under Dr. Wagoner experimented with change. In an effort to broaden its Christian Education program, the Church started a drama group, with Mrs. Nan (R.H.) McNeill as Director. Consistent with Dr. Wagoner's emphasis on music in worship, organist Jay Anderson initiated both a Junior Choir for nine-to-twelve year-olds and a Vespers Choir for young people. During this time, also, First Baptist Church reached out to other churches within the county, even those of other denominations, with summertime union services, such as those with the neighboring Methodists and Presbyterians, and by sponsorship of educational programs open to all. Seminary Extension courses were offered regularly. Women's associational activities were hosted by First Baptist, meetings and activities which involved members from many churches in other towns and municipalities.

In 1958, Dr. Wagoner resigned to become Superintendent of the Baptist Children's Home of North Carolina. His patient demeanor and his calm, reassuring sincerity especially qualified him for this position. Additionally, he had brought with him to First Baptist a special feeling of mission for such a ministry. While working on his doctorate, he had specialized in sociology and social work, in religion's calling to deal with social needs, in strategies for families and children in crisis. First Baptist Church benefited from his administrative abilities and his judicious temperament during his pastorate: The Baptist Children's Home still bears his mark. Dr. Wagoner served with distinction as Superintendent for twenty five years.

W. R. Wagoner died in 1988. Because of a scarcity of written records during his tenure, the writers of this history have profited from Mrs. Wagoner's memories. She recalls at First Baptist Church "a distinct feeling of a rich heritage and the continuing vitality of the church as a living institution." She remembers the feeling of fellowship and community which existed among church members at that time, citing the care and support freely and

generously given in crisis situations. She remembers that during their years here, First Baptist Church had a good heart and a kind spirit.

from **THE FIRST BAPTIST NEWS**

1954

- Aug Several members furnish assistance and equipment to the Wagoners for the move from Winston-Salem: J.E. Caudill—Key City Furniture Co.; A. F. Kilby—Yadkin Valley Motor Co.; W. K. Sturdivant—Reins Sturdivant Funeral Home; Paul Greene—Piedmont Mountain Freight Lines; W. O. Absher—Wilkes Auto Supply; and Frank Bentley.
- Sept J. E. Caudill and J. H. Whicker, Sr. are made life deacons.
- Oct Mr. & Mrs. Lomax (Bud) Kilby have a baby girl, Betty Ann, born September 30th.

1955

- Mar Polio is of great concern. The paper announces a vaccine available for First and Second graders.
- Apr Mr. & Mrs. Claude Triplett join the church, Blanche by letter and Claude by baptism.
- Aug Carl Swofford and Peggy Harris are married.
- Sept At a Sunday evening workshop, Mr. Woodward identifies Grace Frank Mayberry as “Mrs. Mulberry.” J. H. Whicker, Jr., later relates this incident at the golf course. Henceforth, Lott Mayberry is known as “Mulberry” or “Mull.”

THE PEACOCK YEARS

1958 - 1960

In 1958, after an interim period, Dr. Heber F. Peacock succeeded Dr. Wagoner. Dr. Peacock, his wife Edith, sons David, Bill, and Jim, and daughter Elizabeth, came to First Baptist from Louisville, Kentucky, where he had been Professor of New Testament at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. At about the same time he received our call, he got an offer to teach at Southern Methodist University. It was our good fortune that he chose us, although his tenure was the briefest of the last 50 years.

Dr. Peacock came to our church with impressive credentials. He had taken his B.A. in history and Greek from Hardin-Simmons University, had studied engineering at the University of California, had earned both the Th.M. and the Th.D. from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and had been awarded the D. Phil. by the University of Zurich, in Switzerland. Some present-day church members remember Dr. Peacock's reading scripture from a Greek Bible during worship service. Supporting his interest in linguistics and his skill in translation, Dr. Peacock had a reading knowledge of eight languages, four ancient and four modern.

The most traveled of First Baptist's ministers, Dr. Peacock had spent considerable time abroad before coming to North Wilkesboro. Ordained in 1941, he began his career by pastoring several Baptist churches in Kentucky. From 1945 to 1947, he served as an Army chaplain in the U.S. Army in Japan and in the Philippines. Returning to America, he began a three-year appointment as an Assistant Professor of New Testament at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. From 1950 to 1955, he was Professor of New Testament at the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland. He returned to Louisville as a full professor for three years before he came to North Wilkesboro.

Dr. Peacock recollects our call to the pastorate as fortuitous, for he, with many other professors at Southern Seminary, had been forced out by fundamentalists. He recalls that it was a time of conservative dominance at the school, a time when staff members who were conscientiously unable to embrace narrow, anti-intellectual principles either resigned or were dismissed. Dr. Peacock remembers that half the faculty left Southern at the same time he did.

When asked for memories about his stay at First Baptist, he is quick to praise the welcome he and his family received and the continuing generosity of many church members. He also speaks fondly of conducting worship services in the old sanctuary and of "the privilege of preaching to attentive listeners." He tells us he cherished his pastoral visitation as especially meaningful, and he cites particular examples as when, though suffering intensely, a patient was calm and uncomplaining. "I was ministered to more than I ministered," he says in retrospect. He mentions also memorable and rewarding work at Northside, where he conducted Sunday worship at 9:30 a.m. and prayer service on Thursday evenings.

Some unusual happenings stick in his memory. For example, on several occasions, assorted members of the public strolled unannounced into the parsonage, having mistaken it for the funeral home in the block below. Once, on a Saturday when the entire family was at home, a young man and woman arrived and asked to be married on the spot. This event required considerable scrambling but was accomplished successfully and in good order.

Dr. Peacock remembers only one unpleasant incident. He recalls that during a sermon he made, by way of illustration, a passing reference to the election campaign of John F. Kennedy. Though the remark was innocent, some members chose to interpret it as a political endorsement. Dr. Peacock was surprised and shocked by telephone calls and letters taking him to task for "endorsing" a Catholic. He tells us he was disappointed at this evidence of religious intolerance.

When asked about his regrets, Dr. Peacock reflects on his decision to accept a position at Baylor University. "Once the decision was made," he wrote, "I struggled with the fear that it might be a mistake and even more severely with the sense of having failed the people at the church by leaving so soon." But he could not suppress, he said, the call to teach. On a return visit to First Baptist Church, Dr. Peacock told us his main regret about his pastorate was that he did not give greater emphasis to the social issues which would mark the decade of the '60's.

In 1960, Dr. Peacock resigned to become Chairman of the Department of Religion at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. Thereafter, he taught at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, and, for a dozen years, worked with translations for West Africa. Between 1976 and 1988, he served as World Translations Coordinator for the United Bible Societies, based in New York City. During this same period, he was one of six Old Testament translators of the **Good News Bible** (1976), and one of four translators of the Deuterocanonicals/Apocrypha section in the 1979 edition. He has numerous articles and several other books to his credit.

In June of 1976, Dr. Peacock became an Episcopal Deacon, and in December of that year, was ordained an Episcopal Priest. He served as Associate Rector of Grace Episcopal Church in Asheville, North Carolina, for eleven years, until 1989, when he became Interim Rector at St. David's in Cullowee. Dr. Peacock makes his home in Asheville.

[There was no weekly church newsletter during Dr. Peacock's tenure as pastor.]

THE SMITH YEARS

1961-1967

On February 17, 1961, the Reverend R. F. Smith, Jr., pastor of Pittsboro Baptist Church, accepted our unanimous call to become our minister. Mr. Smith, his wife Faye, daughter Becky, and son Forest occupied the parsonage on "D" Street in the latter part of March. His first sermon on March 26, 1961, "Why Stand I Here?" quickly established his superior leadership.

Many churchgoers recall Rev. Smith's penchant for setting goals—for himself as well as for the church. At his welcoming reception, he declared that within a month's time he would be able to call every one of the Church's 506 members by name. He soon set ambitious goals for attendance: 517 in Sunday School and 525 in worship service. Statistics are not available on the results, but many folks agree his efforts were both valiant and determined. Throughout his tenure, Rev. Smith persuaded the Church that striving was good for its soul.

During the turbulent '60's, the Church remained a place of relative peace and accomplishment. It was not a time of inactivity, however. Within his first two years, both Rev. Smith and First Baptist had chalked up beneficial changes and "firsts." A new publication, **The Scope**, made its debut, replacing **The First Baptist News**. The newspaper kept members involved in the active life of the church. During this time, too, the first Church Directory was published, the first Children's Dedication observed on Mother's Day, the format for Wednesday evening changed to a church supper followed by committee meetings, and the church's first vehicle was acquired.

In January 1962, F. Jimmie Mize became Minister of Music and Education, expanding the quality of religious music that our congregation had come to expect. In addition, he instituted

choirs for several age groups within the church, including the very young, and carried his ministry actively to youth groups.

The Church provided additional real-world activities for its young people. For example, an interesting and still-timely topic, "Resolved: That the honor of young people has declined during the last twenty years," was debated between young people and adults. Affirmative speakers were Dr. Keith Bentley, Miss Melinda Duncan, attorney Max Ferree, and Mrs. Chloe Parks, legendary Wilkes Central English teacher. Negative speakers were high school students Diane Grayson, Keith Hennessee, Hayes McNeill, and Vickie Self. Time has obscured the winners of that contest.

Another milestone early in the Smith years was the Deacons' formation of three standing committees for a thorough study of all phases of church life. The Committees were Constitution and By-Laws, Survey, and Church Activity. Committee members examined Church life and suggested structural and organizational improvements for the betterment of the total program. Extensive work was done by the committees and the report presented to the church in conference resulted in the adoption of a new Church constitution.

Several improvements arose from the adoption of the constitution or from policies reformed by the Board of Deacons. One changed the name of their group to the "Diaconate." Likewise, the method of electing deacons became more democratic, members being encouraged to nominate twelve to fourteen men (these were the days before there were women in the ministry) for the positions to be filled. At our pastor's suggestion, the Diaconate approved an Executive Committee of deacons to decide on matters arising between regularly scheduled meetings.

True to our Southern Baptist heritage, the 1960's revivals were a large part of the church program. In May 1961, Rev. Smith conducted a revival at First Baptist, increasing Church membership significantly. In the ensuing years, a guest minister was usually the revival speaker.

Because our pastor was steeped in Southern Baptist traditions, when he felt there was a threat to Baptist freedom, he sounded a warning. As the 1963 Southern Baptist Convention convened in Kansas City, he declared that leaning toward extremes, either conservative or liberal, would be detrimental to all Baptists. A proponent of a middle course, he felt divisive forces stimulated differences rather than commonalities. Thus, he expressed dismay when K. O. White, an avowed fundamentalist, was elected president, and he prophesied great hardships for the agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention.

A man of sharp insight, Rev. Smith was often the first to see a need for improvement in our church program. One instance was the creation, in 1964, of a Sunday School class for high school seniors, both boys and girls. Historically, the church had separated the sexes from early childhood through adult years. Smith felt such a move would spark interest and attendance during critical times in the lives of our young people. It did. With Mrs. R.H. (Nan) McNeill as teacher, attendance and participation soared. Our present trends in Sunday School classes have validated Rev. Smith's foresight.

Without question, the most ambitious project of the last fifty years was the building of our new sanctuary. On June 13, 1962, the Diaconate approved the Finance Committee's report to inaugurate the Sanctuary Building Fund. The plan was to raise, over a three-year-period, the necessary funds for groundbreaking. With this money in hand, during the next three years another effort for pledges would be made to secure the balance needed to begin construction. The Sanctuary Kickoff Drive, headed by Gordon Rhodes, was held in April 1963. By the following September, much to the joy of all members, pledges exceeded projections to such a degree that the overall building program was unanimously adopted.

The entire church population became involved, in one way or another, with the project. Dozens of members helped secure funds and gave their time to a variety of committees. The congregation was encouraged to study plans, ask questions, and

make suggestions. However, the General Building Committee (composed of the Executive Committee and eight sub-committees), along with the pastor, bore the heavy task of making the Church's dream materialize. The Promotional Committee was responsible for raising money. (Members were Mrs. Andrew F. Kilby; Mrs. Rom Llewellyn; Cecil Lee Porter; J.H. Whicker, Sr.; Wayne Church, Roscoe McNeil, and Gordon Rhodes, chairman) Below is a list of members of the various subcommittees that planned and spent that money.

Wayne M. Coffey, Chairman, *General Building Committee*

Kitchen Committee

Tal Barnes, Chm.
Conrad Shaw
Mrs. Paul Greene
Mrs. R. C. Hartley

Educational Committee

Max Foster,
Roscoe McNeil
Frank Allen

Music Committee

Mrs. Walter Call, Chm.
Jay Anderson
Mrs. A. F. Kilby
Mrs. Homer Wellborn
Mrs. Tal Barnes, Sr.

Publicity Committee

Paul Greene, Chm.
Ron Parker
Mrs. Ed Day

Grounds Committee

Wayne Church, Chm.
Jim Bentley
Charles Sheets
Isaac Duncan
Shoun Kerbaugh

Finishings & Furnishings
Mrs. R. P. Casey, Chm.
Mrs. Rom Llewellyn
Mrs. Paul Greene
Miss Ruby Blackburn
Sidney Johnson

Much hard work preceded the May 16, 1965, ground-breaking ceremony. For the next fifteen months, time-consuming meetings and hard decisions were a main focus in the life of the Church, but all agreed the effort was well-spent when we attended our first worship service on August 14, 1966, in our expansive, Georgian sanctuary. A week of dedication followed on September 11th. Members of the Dedication Committee were W. R. McNeil, chairman; Mrs. Raymond Blevins; Max Foster; Cecil Lee Porter; and Mrs. W. K. Sturdivant.

During the construction, the church maintained a full-blown ministry to its members and to the community. Social issues, missions, and church doctrines received due attention. Rev. Smith was appointed by the North Wilkesboro mayor to an International Relations Committee. Our church joined an ad hoc group of citizens and concerned parents against pornographic literature at local newsstands. GA's offered free babysitting service, enabling parents to vote in local and national elections. In 1964, a new ministry, Dial-a-Prayer, funded by an anonymous lay person began. At any hour, by dialing a published number, a caller could receive a devotional thought and a brief prayer.

From time to time our church had purchased property for future expansion. But in 1963, we voted to sell to the Optimist Club a small tract behind the Methodist Church. In turn, we bought the lot on the corner of Fifth and "D" for parking space.

As our physical facilities expanded, so did our staff. In August of 1965, Mr. Ellihu Sloan became our first Minister of Music on a full-time basis. Then in May 1966, Mr. Bob Wainwright became our first full-time Minister of Education. Both were welcome additions to the Church community and both contributed talent and dedication to the Church's mission and purpose.

In his recollections, the Rev. Smith speaks of his halcyon days at First Baptist. His warm remarks are sprinkled with compliments for remembered good deeds of many long-standing members, some now deceased. He is quick to praise the efforts of staff and lay people, the “unsung heroes” of his time in Wilkes. His memories also give us insight into the unseen labyrinth that is a church. And his ever-present sense of humor is evident as he recalls worshipping in the old sanctuary.

Many can recollect the inefficient heating system, which had radiators noisy enough to compete with the choir. There was no way to control the temperature. Ushers kept the sanctuary as comfortable as possible during worship service, and the pastor used hand signals to communicate with them. Smith said he would pull at his collar with his index finger when the sanctuary was too warm. But this system was not foolproof. One cold February Sunday, he tells us, his collar was so tight that he inadvertently gave it a tug or two. Four dutiful ushers hurried down the aisles, lowering windows from the top, adding freezing air into the already cold building.

Rev. Smith, as well as many members, recalls another amusing incident which occurred soon after he arrived. One Sunday when Dr. and Mrs. Wayland returned for a visit, chief usher Monroe Eller and assistant chief Roscoe McNeil rushed, hands outstretched, to welcome Mrs. Wayland. In the confusion, the two ushers shook each other's hands while Mrs. Wayland looked on.

Rev. Smith resigned May 28, 1967 to pastor the First Baptist Church of Durham, North Carolina. A capable and energetic administrator, R. F. Smith was a joyful scholar and a sensitive and compassionate pastor who moved in only one direction—forward—as he provided articulate and committed leadership at a pivotal time in the Church's history. His energy and enthusiasm built a foundation both strong and broad for First Baptist Church.

Dr. John T. Wayland, former pastor, accepted the interim pastorate.

from **THE SCOPE**

1962

- Jan Someone takes Mr. C.C. Sidden's black Stetson after church service and leaves brown. Mr. Sidden wants to exchange.
- Feb Madge and Bill Sturdivant give Ridgecrest lot to church. Snow storms keep people away from worship service. Pastor spells out policy: Sporting events are not cancelled during snow; neither is church service.
- Mar Margaret Foster becomes interim Educational Director.
- April A daughter, Rachel, is born to Faye and R. F. Smith
- Aug Blan Minton is ordained.
- Sept Mr. Tom Haigwood recognized for 10 years devoted service as custodian.
- Nov Pastor sends survey to all members for evaluation of all church activities and buildings.

1963

- Jan Pastor asks members inform him when another member is sick.
- Apr Avalon Minton is awarded Phi Beta Kappa at Wake Forest.
- June Mr. & Mrs. John Smith are appointed missionaries to Indonesia; pastor challenges congregation to give support.
- Aug Choir presents **God's Trombones**. Soloists are Ann Compton Johnson, Betty Jane Foster, Priscilla Call, Avalon Minton; Narrators, R. F. Smith, Mrs. John Hooks; Kindergarten opens with 20 enrolled; Darlene Conner teaches.
- Nov State Southern Baptist Convention meets in Wilmington. Proposal is presented to change constitution of convention and charter of Wake Forest College, making it possible for college to select 16 of 36 trustees from outside the denomination and state.
- Dec Christmas banquet is sponsored by Brotherhood. R.F. Smith gives moving eulogy of John F. Kennedy after his assassination in Dallas.

1964

- Feb Church approves architect for new sanctuary.

- Mar Pastor reveals he has been offered another church but has elected to remain here.
- Apri H. B. Smith house is purchased for church expansion.
- June Pastor is scheduled for surgery.
- Aug Church votes to purchase Gilreath property to enable architect to enlarge back of new sanctuary.
- Sept Laymen lead church service during pastor's absence.
- Oct Detailed drawings of new sanctuary are presented.

1965

- Apr Chancel and Youth choirs present "The Crucifixion." F. Jimmie Mize directs, Elsie Welborn is organist, and soloists are Everette Elledge, David Foster, and Ronald Knouse. Keith Hennessee directs drama, "The Cup of Trembling."
- May Ann Compton Johnson receives music scholarship to the University of Florida.

1966

- Jan Church has received record gifts for 1965. Vivian Greene becomes interim Youth Director.
- Apr The steeple on new sanctuary is put in place. Mr. Roy Forehand, who lives across the street, films the event. Large number of people gather on Rev. Smith's lawn to watch.
- May Roger Byrd becomes church custodian.
- Aug Last service is held in old sanctuary.
- Oct Mr. Sloan presents dedicatory recital on new Wicks organ.
- Dec David E. Creech is called as Associate Pastor and Northside Pastor.

1967

- Jan A baby girl is born to Mr. & Mrs. C. H. Necessary
- April National Honor Society inductees receive congratulations from Church.
- May Church office is renovated. Rev. Smith resigns to accept pastorate in Durham.

The LAYMON YEARS 1967-1975

On September 16, 1967, a special church conference was convened with a prayer by Raymond Blevins, Chairman of the Diaconate. Wayne Church then presented the Pulpit Committee's report to call as pastor the Reverend Allen Laymon of the Benson (North Carolina) First Baptist Church. Mr. Church reported that Mr. Laymon had attended Bob Jones University and UNC-Chapel Hill, and that he had taken his Bachelor of Divinity from Southwestern Baptist Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. The members approved the committee's recommendation. Mr. Laymon accepted the call. With his wife Rebecca, and children Jonathan, Leticia, and Charles, he moved into the parsonage on "D" Street in early October. The Laymons quickly integrated into church and community activities.

Mr. Laymon preached his first sermon on October 8th. A church member recalls that the new pastor opened his arms to the congregation as he delivered his first sentence: "Well, here I am!" The sermon was entitled "What the Church has to Offer." The congregation soon realized, however, that Mr. Laymon's real emphasis was "What Has the Christian to Offer the Church?" The Laymon years became a time of activity, of commitment, and of change.

During Mr. Laymon's tenure, from the late '60's into the middle '70's, traumatic events in our national life filtered down to affect everyone: social unrest, racial tensions, the Vietnam War (and student protests against it), changing sexual mores, Watergate (and increasing political cynicism bred by its revelation). During this time, two presidential candidates were gunned down—one slain and the other paralyzed for life; the nation's pre-eminent civil rights leader was assassinated; and the President of the United States resigned in disgrace. It was a difficult and uneasy time for any pastor to lead his flock, yet Mr. Laymon steered First

Baptist aggressively, with a flexible course and a steady hand. In a recent letter to the History Committee, he recollects

the Vietnam War, Love Valley, and integration. I remember with pain and joy, the frank discussions we had on the church campus and in your homes over these and other social issues, and I remember the struggling of our youth with these social concerns.

His memories illustrate Mr. Laymon's belief that while a Christian pastor's first duty was to his church, he also was obliged, professionally and morally, to minister to needs wherever he found them, within his congregation or without. For example, this large and generous spirit made Mr. Laymon widely known as a superb family counselor; many from our church family, many from outside our church, and many from outside Wilkes County sought him out with their problems. When he saw the larger need, also, to promote racial harmony, he led the community as well as his Church, both through preaching and by exchanging pulpits with area black ministers.

Rev. Laymon provided valuable guidance and support to Robert Wainwright and William Byrd, Youth Ministers during his tenure, encouraging a wholesome but savvy Church climate and insisting on free and open communication for the church's youth. Young people were attracted by his optimistic and fresh approach and responded to it with unparalleled participation in church and community affairs. At a time when the nation's young were "turned off" by churches that feared them and kept them powerless, First Baptist Church, under Allen Laymon, braved a different path. The first Youth Council was formed to coordinate activities by and for youth. The Diaconate was led to appoint young persons to one-year terms on every church committee. Young people mattered at First Baptist, and they knew it.

During these years, the Church proved its commitment to Christian compassion. In 1969, First Baptist opened the second floor of the Children's Building to Wilkes Day Care Center for Handicapped Children. The center was licensed to care for severely

mentally and physically handicapped children. The specially trained staff was directed by Mrs. Don Royal. Operating with federal, state, and local funds, the students' fees were set on a sliding scale, so that no child was refused because of parental inability to pay. First Baptist gave the Center the chance it needed to establish itself and to demonstrate the help it could provide to special students. Eventually, the Day Care Center was able to move into permanent quarters in Wilkesboro.

Mr. Laymon recalls with fondness his two-year pastorate at Northside Mission, which he maintained while performing his regular pastoral duties at First Baptist. Of this period he says

I remember your love for Northside and those who served so faithfully every Sunday. I remember preaching there for a period of time. I rejoice with them in their being a recently constituted church.

In all things, the pastor's enthusiasm was infectious, only matched by his powers of persuasion. One member recalled that "when he called me to take a church position which I had first refused (by begging lack of qualification), I now found myself giving in, and then, somehow even feeling privileged that I had been asked." Almost every church member, young or old, could offer similar testimony about being mobilized by the sunny and charming pastor. And Mr. Laymon had enthusiasm left over for sports. He played with the church basketball team and frequently scrambled into the radio stations' broadcast booths to provide "color" commentary for Wilkes Central football games. An avid golfer with a low handicap, he often could be seen at Oakwoods Country Club playing on weekdays with golfers from the congregation and with others, a silent reminder that one might witness on a fairway as well as from the pulpit. Though he did not play on Sundays, he was empathetic toward the members who did, sometimes considering the weather in planning the length of his Sunday morning sermons. He was adamant, however, that neither weather conditions nor outdoor sports were any excuse for missing church. Writing in **The Scope**, he charged the congregation, "We cannot change the weather, but we can keep

it from being a reason to miss church. Bad weather conditions can be a hindrance to the program of our church if we allow it to be.”

Early in Mr. Laymon’s ministry here, after a Sunday worship service, the cornerstone of the old sanctuary was removed and documents which had been placed there in 1912 were extracted. They included a Bible, a list of church members in 1910, minutes of the WMU organizational meeting in 1893, and the itemized estimated cost of the building. Total cost had been \$7,586.52.

One of the significant events during Mr. Laymon’s pastorate was the change of policy on the admission of new members. In 1969, First Baptist elected a Long Range Planning Committee to study the church’s spiritual and physical needs and to recommend a long term direction for the future. As part of this study, the committee concerned itself with the church’s policies on membership and recommended that the Diaconate make a detailed study of this subject. In 1970, the Diaconate appointed a sub-committee to study the need for constitutional change in membership policies and procedures. A year later, the Diaconate adopted the report of the special sub-committee. The methods of receiving members listed here in abbreviated form were as follows:

- 1) Upon profession of faith in Jesus Christ all new converts would be baptized by immersion.
- 2) A candidate wishing church membership could transfer his letter, having previously been baptized by immersion or previously baptized by another mode. If the candidate received a “believer’s baptism” by another mode, he was to be examined by the pastor regarding his baptism and its meaning for him. He would be counseled concerning Baptist history and beliefs, and be apprised that should he seek membership in another Baptist church he might be requested to be rebaptized by immersion.
- 3) If the letter of the candidate for membership could not be obtained, then he could be accepted on statements affirming faith in Jesus Christ, previous church affiliation and baptism.

Exceptions to these requirements could be made when, in the judgment of pastor and Diaconate, circumstances justified waiving the preceding modes of reception. The report further recommended that this constitutional change be thoroughly clarified and explored before a vote by the church was taken. This was done in a series of discussions in church conferences, in Sunday School, and in organizational meetings. It was emphasized that a two-thirds majority vote of members present at a church conference would be required to make a constitutional change. On Sunday, June 20, 1971, the congregation, sitting in packed pews, adopted by a 90% majority, the change in baptismal policy. Today, Mr. Laymon recalls the baptismal change and its ramifications.

I remember the debate over the baptismal issue and the rumor that our church might be excommunicated from the Brushy Mountain Association. I remember our differing opinions, but I also remember a striving for unity.

But in a larger sense, the doctrinal question was not completely settled, for ten other North Carolina Baptist Churches had adopted a similar stance which caused a committee of the Baptist State Convention to be formed to examine these "differing" churches. In the summer of 1973, representatives from our church met with the Committee of Eleven at First Baptist Church in Greensboro to present our case. This committee met with the other churches, as well, but no real action was taken. During subsequent Baptist State Convention meetings, the issue was brought to the floor again and again by a few disgruntled North Carolina Baptist pastors. Several messengers from our church to a State Convention in Greensboro remember the lengthy and acrimonious debate over what to "call" the churches who had adjusted their baptismal policies. The word "erring" was suggested but "differing" won out. Since that time two decades ago, many progressive North Carolina Baptist Churches admit previously-baptized members from other Protestant churches without requiring immersion.

In September 1973, Dr. John T. Wayland retired from Southeastern Seminary and joined the church staff as Associate Pastor. His primary duty was to visit the sick and shut-in members but his help also proved to be of great value to Mr. Laymon on many pastoral duties. Dr. Wayland would continue in this position until the end of 1990.

Throughout the 1970's, poor offering receipts and the burden of indebtedness continued to plague the Finance Committee and the church as a whole. In July 1974, a campaign was begun to pay off the indebtedness on the sanctuary. The Diaconate explained the move in the July 25th issue of **The Scope**. "Several months ago, a member of our church felt God had directed him to strive to come up with a plan to pay off our indebtedness and he approached our Finance Committee in regard to putting into motion this endeavor." By October, 132 families had pledged over \$200,000. In a letter of thanks to the church and its members, Isaac Duncan revealed that it was he God had spoken to about the debt. Mr. Duncan called the indebtedness a "millstone around the church's neck." The next year, On October 5, 1975, the note was burned in a church ceremony.

Allen Laymon resigned on October 1, 1975 to accept a call from the old historic First Baptist Church in Wilmington, North Carolina. His farewell message was recorded after his departure in the October 29th newsletter:

When we bade you adieu, we were mindful that we were saying goodbye to some of the truest, noblest, and sweetest friends on earth. There has existed a strange and beautiful relationship between us. We leave with the assurance that always and ever we are bound together by the fellowship of Christian love.

Allen Laymon, now pastor of Park Road Baptist Church in Charlotte, has retained his eloquence. In a recent letter to the History Committee, he summed up his First Baptist Church experience with the statement, "I remember the freedom of the pulpit and the freedom of the pew."

Interim ministers were Dr. G. Henton Davis, Dr. Donald Cook, and Thomas Bland of Southeastern Seminary. Every Baptist Pulpit Committee has unusual tales to tell. One Pulpit Committeeman recalls that when the replacement for Allen Laymon was sought, a contingent flew down to rural Georgia to check out a prospect. In most cases, a search committee seeks anonymity and seats itself in groups of twos and threes in the church of the prospect. Raymond Blevins, Committee Chairman was unable to evade a church greeter who asked where he was from. The skillful reply (from one who knows the ropes) was, "Oh, I'm from up the road a piece." Not so lucky was Nick Bumgarner, the 18-year-old youth representative who was sitting next to Nan McNeill. Nick was mortified when a near-sighted, elderly gentleman welcomed him with this invitation, "I hope you and your wife will visit us again real soon."

from THE SCOPE

1967

- Oct Annual meeting of Brushy Mountain Association is held at Pleasant Grove Church. Dr. Heber Peacock returns as guest speaker for a two-night associational service in our church. Church members approve a "record" budget of \$149,457 for 1968. General chairman of Forward Program, Roscoe McNeil remarks on the enthusiasm which accompanies the vote.

- Dec From the pages of the newsletter, "After careful consideration toward providing the most worshipful atmosphere in our sanctuary, we deem it wise that the balcony be used only when the seating capacity of the downstairs is filled to the comfort of our people."
 Mrs. Winona Goodnow is soloist in a Chancel and Youth choir message of Christmas.

1968

- Feb David Call, son of Mr. and Mrs. Conley Call, is awarded rank of Eagle Scout during Sunday service.

- Mar The dramatic presentation, **The Question That Never Was**, is given at evening worship. Cast included Max Foster, Mrs. Becky

(Ed) Day, Mrs. Betty (E.J.) Shelton, E. James Moore, Mrs. Margie (Wayne) Coffey, and Mrs. Mary Nell (Wayne) Church.

- Apr Mrs. Linda Wagoner succeeds Gail Myers, receptionist who resigns to accept employment in Greenville, South Carolina.
- June Rehearsals begin for **Good News**, a Christian faith musical sponsored by the Wilkes County Ministerial Association. Fifty eight young people from six area churches are taking part. Two members of an advisory group are Bob Wainwright, Minister of Education, and Ellihu Sloan, Minister of Music.
- Aug Performance of **Good News** proves so popular that a repeat presentation is scheduled. During Pastor's vacation, several former pastors return to preach in celebration of the church's 75th year: Dr. David Browning, Dr. John Kincheloe, Dr. W. R. Wagoner, and Dr. John T. Wayland.
- Oct A new Sunday School class, with seminar format for men and women, is begun. Charles Manship is discussion leader. This is the beginning of Seminar I class.
- Nov Elected Youth Council officers for 1968-1969: President—Gail Foster, Vice President—Steve Bentley, and Ken Greene—Secretary Kelia Dawn Coffey, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Coffey and Lynn Bradburn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Bradburn are candidates for baptism. Northside kindergarten begins its fifth year. Junior II Christian Training group led by Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Shaw take basket of fruit to shut-in, Mrs. D. G. Wiles.
- Dec A Christmas Cantata is presented by Chancel and Youth Choirs as part of 11:00 a.m. worship service. Soloists are Mrs. Thelma (James) Lovette, Mrs. Winona (D.R.) Goodnow, David Call, and John Goodnow. Mr. Laymon is narrator and Mr. Sloan directs from the organ.

The Scope notes that W. K. Sturdivant has served as Finance Committee Chairman at different times for the past thirty years.

1969

- Jan Bible study on Isaiah is taught by Dr. E. W. Hamrick, professor in the Department of Religion at Wake Forest University. Men's Basketball team defeats Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Elkin by a score of 41-40. Tommy McLean makes winning foul shot in last five seconds of the game. Other players include Charles Johnson, Frank Day, Keith Bentley, Wayne Church, Herbert McKenzie, Drew Mayberry, James Cook, Tommy Welborn, and Allen Laymon.

- Feb Nancy Duncan is offertory soloist at Sunday worship service. **The Scope's** Young Person Away of the Week is Tim Day at University of North Carolina.
- Mar **The Scope's** Young Person Away of the Week is Russell Ferree at Wake Forest University.
- Apr Mrs. Vivian (Kenneth) Greene leads new adult seminar during Christian Training hour. Topic is "Guidlines for Personal Morality." Young Person Away of the Week is David Raymer at Appalachian State University.
Colonel Frank Borman, astronaut writes congregation thanking them for prayers and congratulations offered on the behalf of the Apollo VIII flight crew.
- May Coach for church's R.A.'s is Nick Bumgarner.
R.A. track meet for Brushy Mountain Association church is held. Parent-child dedication service is held on Mother's Day. Taking part are Amber Sue, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Keith Wyke; Mary Lynn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. D. Forester III; Suzanne, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert McKenzie; and Patrick Scott, son of Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Hill.
Young Person Away of the Week is Rebecca Waugh at Lees McRae College.
- June Miss Cornelia Ann Church is married to Kenneth Barnes at Knollwood Baptist Church in Winston—Salem, North Carolina. Ellihu Sloan gives graduate recital at Appalachian State University.
- July A twenty-five handbell set is given to the church by an anonymous donor. Mr. Sloan writes in newsletter a history of bell-ringing and promises first handbell group will play by fall.
- Aug Dr. and Mrs. John L. Bond, daughters Beth and Laura join church. New classes for pre-kindergarteners, three and four year olds begin.
- Oct Mrs. Dovie Chipman, Sunday School teacher, and her class of ten-year-old girls attend a skating party at the Rollercade and then go to the home of Drew McNeill for a cook-out.
Young Person Away for the Week is Francie Rogers at Appalachian State University.
- Nov Brad Shinaman is candidate for baptism.
Miss Ann Pardue and Jerrald Michael Sonet are married in New York City.
- Dec Anna Kerley, Sherry Brooks, and Sandra Wyke are candidates for baptism.

1970

- Jan Joe Brooks, Jr. presents himself for baptism.
Wayne Bradburn is speaker for worship service on Baptist Men's Day.
Vaughn Hayes joins church.
- Feb Kirk Phillips and Philip Hennessee receive Eagle Scout awards at morning worship service.
- Mar Elizabeth Triplett, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Claude Triplett sings with Meredith College choir in a sanctuary concert.
Gardner-Webb choir, directed by Jerry Hill, former Music Minister of our church, presents service of music. Choir accompanist is Laura Day, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Day.
- Apr Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Brooks enroll daughter, Laura in Sunday School. She represents the fifth generation of Abschers involved in the life of First Baptist Church: great-great grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Abscher; great grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. H. O. Abscher; grandparents Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Abscher; and parent, Elizabeth Abscher Brooks.
- May Parent-child dedication is held on Mother's Day. Among the children dedicated are Elizabeth Maria, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Elledge; Laura Elizabeth, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Brooks; Curtis Andrew, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Faw; Mark Beshears, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Cook; and Jacqueline Renee, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Nixon.
- May R.A. Track meet is held at Wilkes Central.
Church allows Wilkes County Headstart Program to use three rooms and kitchen for summer months. A small service charge is added to cover expenses.
- June Reginald Hill and James Graham, counselors, present awards to R.A.'s. Opening and closing ceremonies are led by Reid McKenzie and Robert Jennings.
Martha Raye Carson and William Myers are married in sanctuary.
- July Hale, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Allie Hayes, previously given license to preach in our church, dies. Church mourns for this valiant victim of polio.
Congratulations are given to Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Reavis on the birth of a daughter.
Miss Linda Greene marries Nicholas Wehrmann, Jr.
- Sept Mrs. Jane Hobbs and children, Nick and Suzie, join church by letter and Grady, as a candidate for baptism.
A son is born to Mr. and Mrs. James Lovette.
Fifty seven young people from First Baptist enter college.
Dana Sloan, son of minister of music Ellihu Sloan and Mozelle

Sloan, presents organ recital.
 Mrs. Darlene Conner resigns as church Kindergarten teacher.
 Mrs. Betty (Robert) Wainwright takes the position.

Nov Dr. John L. Bond is ordained as deacon at evening service.
The Scope lists Youth Council: Janice Mayberry-president, Beth Bond-Vice President, Pamela Barnes-Secretary, Mrs. Barbara (Roscoe) McNeil and Mrs. Rebecca (Allen) Laymon are advisors.

Dec Church initiates programs for all ages on Sunday evenings.

1971

Jan A. L. (Bud) Kilby, Director of Children's building is interviewed as he mops floor in one of the departments on a Sunday morning. "Nothing out of the ordinary ever happens over here", he jokes. He gives credit to Mrs. Elma (Monroe) Eller, his mentor for long and unstinting service to babies and small children in the department and for her wise counsel and inspiration. Pastor is invited to speak at Sunday night service of "B" Street First Baptist Church's anniversary observance. Many of our congregation attend.

Mar Parents of children five to eight are invited to see film on sex education.
 Ladies mission action group of WMU sponsor clothing closet for needy on Tuesday mornings. There is a call for donations of clothing and for volunteers.

Apr Nick Bumgarner is Youth Minister for Sunday morning worship service. He introduces himself to congregation as "one sinner to another". Guitars and drums accompany vocal rendition of "What the World Needs Now is Love, Sweet Love". After a trip to the Holy Land, Bob and Nan McNeill share their experiences with the church.

June Mrs. Alice (James) Harvel, eleven year church secretary, is honored.

July Receiving God and Country scout awards are Bill Stringfield, Kirk Shelton, Skipper and Kenny Province.

Aug Vespers are held at Doughton Park.

Oct Day Prayer group meets with Mrs. C. E. Jenkins.

Nov Unicef benefit by First Baptist young people raises \$62 at church Halloween Carnival. Winners of costume contest are Chy Billings, Jackie McNeil, and Penny Self.
 The Fidelis Sunday School class places portrait of Mrs. Cora (C.B.) Eller in classroom, honoring her many years of service.

1972

- Jan On Baptist Men's Day, the pastor leads the morning service with the assistance of Cecil Porter, Jim Boyles, Frank Bright, and Max Foster. Special music is provided by a men's choir.
- Feb Eagle Scout award is received by Bill Stringfield.
- April Youth Sunday is observed.
Mars Hill Youth Choir presents concert in memory of David Foster, who was a member of the choir while a student there. A portrait of R. H. (Bob) McNeill, Sunday School teacher and former deacon, is placed by the John T. Wayland class in their classroom in his memory.
- May Mr. and Mrs. James F. Payne and Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Bumgarner join church.
- June Messengers to Southern Baptist Convention in Philadelphia, PA are Mr. and Mrs. Laymon, Mr. and Mrs. Ellihu Sloan, and Mrs. Beverly (James) Cook.
- July Parents of Wilkes Day Care children thank the church for providing facilities.
- Aug Keith Hennessee marries Hella Muller in Germany.
- Sept. Allison and Steve Bare, Laura Bentley are candidates for baptism.
- Oct Lunda Hendren receives special recognition at Brushy Mountain Association meeting for 27 years of service to Training Union.
- Nov Grady Nutt, Baptist minister and humorist speaks at Fellowship dinner at National Guard Armory.
Robert Allen is born to Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Wyke.
- Dec Rev. Al Andrews, associate minister of Hickory First Baptist speaks at morning worship in the absence of our Pastor.

1973

- Jan James Charles (Chuck) Moore and his sister Jean are candidates for baptism.
- Mar Church library is moved to conference room.
First Baptist senior boys and adults sweep Wilkes YMCA basket ball tournament.
- Apr A daughter, Donna, is born to Mr. and Mrs. Keith Wyke.

Chancel choir sings Schubert's "Communion in G" in Easter service.

- May Festival of the Creative Arts is held in Social room.
- June Bob Wainwright, Minister of Education and Youth, resigns to take position as Superintendent of Missions of Flat River Association in Granville County.
Philip Hennessee, as Youth pastor, says that Christianity is a "religion of action".
- Aug Mona Blevins, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Blevins is married to Benjamin Franklin McGilvary, III.
- Sept. Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth L. Compton and daughter, Kathy join church.
- Oct New parking lot on the corner of 5th and "D" Streets completed. William A. Byrd becomes new Minister of Youth and Education. Mr. and Mrs. Petro Kulynych join church. Lisa Dawn Church is candidate for baptism.
- Nov Mrs. Mollie (Rex) Handy becomes new member.
- Dec On second Sunday of Advent, Jean Moore and Ken Shelton light the Bethlehem candle.

1974

- Jan Old sanctuary is pronounced a fire hazard. Bid is let to demolish the building.
- Mar Chancel choir receives "superior" rating at regional music festival.
- April Mr. and Mrs. James Andrews join church.
- June Usual lag in summertime pledge receipts causes concern to Finance Committee.
- July Campaign begins to liquidate sanctuary indebtedness.
- Aug Mr. and Mrs. William C. Maddry join church by letter.
- Dec Christmas oratorio by Saint-Saens is presented by Chancel choir.

1975

- Jan **The Scope** is printed in church office on mimeograph machine in effort to cut costs of printing.

- Feb Statewide goal of \$100,000 is launched for World Hunger Relief.
- Mar Maurice (Moose) Roberson joins church.
- Personnel Committee and Diaconate recommend that Mr. Laymon be granted permission to participate in pulpit exchange with the Rev. Lennard Jones of Haverfordwest, Wales.
- Apr Youth of church presents **LightShine**, a musical drama taken from the Sermon on the Mount. They will tour through Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas.
- May Nineteen high school graduates have breakfast at Holiday Inn.
- June While Mr. Laymon preaches in Wales, Rev. Lennard Jones and family arrive in Wilkes County. They get a warm reception.
- Sep Dr. G. Henton Davis of Wales preaches at special service. Dr. Davis is former Principal of Regents' Park (Baptist) College, Oxford University, England.
Dr. John Wayland will escort a tour to the Holy Land early in 1976.
- Oct Note is burned: Church indebtedness paid off.
Mr. Laymon resigns, effective October 26th.
Mothers' Day Out begins.
- Dec Cantata, **Night of Wonder**, is performed by choir under Mr. Sloan's direction.

The ROGERS YEARS 1976 - 1985

Mr. William B. Rogers began his ministry at First Baptist Church in July, 1976. With his wife Peggy, daughters Dorothy and Betsy, and son William B., Jr. he came from Ridge Road Baptist Church in Raleigh. His nine-year tenure was the longest in the past fifty years of our church.

In his reflections, Mr. Rogers states, "First Baptist was breaking out of the traditional mold in both its polity and its ministry." He remembers the challenge minister and members shared as North Wilkesboro often had to "go it alone without much support from our sister Baptist Churches." One instance was the stand on the issue of "women in the ministry," which our church viewed as essential for equality and justice. By electing Mrs. Gladys (R. H.) Llewellyn as the first woman member of the Diaconate, our membership proved their active support for this principle. Three years later, Mrs. Pauline (J. Floyd) Woodward became the second woman member of the Diaconate.

Soon after Mr. Rogers' arrival, our country, like much of the rest of the world, experienced an energy crisis. A notice in **The Scope** informed us, "First Baptist Changes Schedule to Help Conserve Energy." As thermostats went down everywhere, First Baptist did its part by cancelling mid-week prayer service, by moving choir practice and Sunday evening activities to earlier hours, and by encouraging women to wear slacks. The church office went to a four-and-a-half day week.

The 1970's were a time of social upheaval and changing values, and most mainline churches saw shrinking membership in the 1970's. Mr. Rogers sought to stem this tide through his genuine desire to involve everyone in church affairs. To strengthen family ties, church staff and lay leaders worked hard to structure activities to appeal to all members. For example, the pastor began children's sermons for pre-school and elementary youngsters. After their

brief but special time with the minister in the sanctuary, the children returned to their building for their own service.

During the Rogers years, the Youth group continued to be quite active. Once, fifteen were commissioned as missionaries and sent to work for two weeks with the National Baptist Church in Washington, D. C., where they were charged with responsibility for a Day Camp near the church. The young people financed their trip by several money-raising projects. Less exotic but more regular activities included dramatic presentations, puppet shows, and musicals.

For Single Young Adults and for Young Married Couples, these years featured special Sunday School classes, retreats, and recreational fellowships. Both the minister and the assistant minister conducted Marriage and Family Enrichment Seminars. Wednesday night family dinners, followed by Bible studies for all age groups, continued. Long-standing organizations for men and women carried on a tradition of ministering to others as needs arose, often establishing new ministries to tackle new problems.

When interest in WMU (Women Missionary Union) diminished, the ladies reorganized as "Women of the Church" with Aileen (Keith) Bentley as its first president. The stated goal, "to further personal involvement in service and missions," got the group off to a strong start.

In 1977, the expansion of Church programs to "something for everyone" birthed a new group, "KeenAgers," made up of members in their later years. The genesis of this energetic group was an idea of Mrs. Pansy Carson's. With full support of Mr. Rogers, and with the organizational assistance of Mr. & Mrs. James F. Payne, this group was active from its inception. The Paynes served as co-leaders for a number of years, planning and executing many events for the lively group. Meaningful programs, celebrations of special occasions, out-of-town trips to historical places, and shopping expeditions were only a few of their activities. Mrs. Carson also enlisted Mrs. Mary Katherine (Frank) Allen, who eventually assumed leadership from the Paynes.

Mrs. Allen is the current leader. Other special populations within the Church found something for themselves, as well. Our Shut-In members were kept in the Church fellowship when Deacons delivered communion to them. One circle gave a program every fourth Sunday for local rest home residents.

In his reminiscences, Rogers is quick to praise the membership for its openness to new ideas. Having long extended the hand of fellowship through union services with neighboring churches, members endorsed Rogers' participation in ecumenical and inter-denominational dialogues. As Mr. Rogers put it, "All churches are a part of God's family. We can learn a great deal from each other in our shared experiences."

Pulpit exchange with a British church was consistent with Rogers' commitment to ecumenism. In 1980, he and the Reverend Gurynfryn C. Thomas of Wales fulfilled duties in each other's respective churches for four weeks. The ministers, accompanied by their families, also exchanged residences for the duration.

In the same year, the church newsletter informs us that "The Southern Baptist Convention, meeting in St. Louis, Missouri, made another attempt to reconcile major differences on interpretation of scriptures. We are looking forward to having Dr. and Mrs. Wayland back to help interpret what it will mean to Baptists in the future." Our church waited and hoped for a judicious decision, one which would narrow the developing gulf.

In 1980, also, First Baptist Church celebrated the bicentennial of a ministry that had evolved into what we now call Sunday School. Five members were recognized for their many years of dedicated service as Sunday School leaders: Mrs. Elma (J. Monroe) Eller, Mr. and Mrs. U. W. Foster, Mrs. Bessie Chloe (Shoun) Kerbaugh, and Mr. A. L. Kilby.

In the late '70's and early '80's, donations made possible enhancements to our sanctuary and to our music program. A new Knabe grand piano was bought with memorial gifts from many members. In memory of their parents, Mr. & Mrs. A. F. Kilby, Grace

Frank (Lott) Mayberry, and A. F. Kilby, Jr. donated two handbells, completing our set of three octaves. A Robe Fund, to replace Chancel Choir robes, was established by families of two deceased members: Mrs. Ruby (Conrad) Kilby and daughter Martha in memory of Mr. Kilby, and the family of Dora Myers, in her memory. Ms Lunda Hendren donated two pedestals for the front of the sanctuary.

In August of 1982, the church welcomed home one of its own, Mrs. Ann Brookshire Sherer, to lead the worship service. Ann, the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Homer Brookshire, had grown up in the church. As a teenager, she had shown a keen interest in serving others. Church records recount that she, with only nine other American students, spent part of the summer of 1964 in Korea helping build a school. In 1969, Mrs. Sherer received the B.D. degree from Andover Newton Theological Seminary in Massachusetts. At her graduation, she was honored as the most outstanding student in her class and was invited to deliver the Commencement Address. Never before in the institution's history had a woman earned these honors. In 1976, she was ordained as a Deacon in the ministry of the Methodist Church in Houston, Texas. In July of 1992, Mrs. Sherer was elected bishop of the United Methodist Church, only the sixth woman in Methodist history to be so honored. Mrs. Sherer credited her early years at First Baptist as influential to her ministry of moderation, conciliation, and fairness.

On December 18, 1982, First Baptist Church, as well as the community at large, was saddened by the death of Mr. Ellihu Sloan. Our first full-time Minister of Music, he had served First Baptist for seventeen years. Mr. Sloan's dedication to his ministry and his cooperative spirit had endeared him to all. His death left a real void.

Between 1982 and 1985, the Church made a concerted effort to increase Sunday School attendance. Class rolls swelled, substantially increasing for the first time since 1961.

On September 8, 1985, Mr. Rogers accepted a call to become pastor of First Baptist Church of Blowing Rock, North Carolina.

In assessing the Rogers pastorate, Associate Minister Dr. John Wayland cited Rogers as "a loving pastor and a compassionate counselor." Wayland reminded the membership that Mr. Rogers was instrumental in giving women greater opportunities for leadership, that he was a leader among ministers, and that he had made special contributions to Wilkes Cares and to One on One.

Upon saying "good-bye" to Mr. Rogers, First Baptist Church began an interim period with Mr. Alan Richy (Minister of Youth and Education since July, 1980) filling in as administrator. Visiting ministers conducted services until a new pastor was called. J. Gregory Wright, Minister of Music, joined the staff during this time and soon proved to all that he was a masterful musician. His forte was the skilful blending and elaboration of melodies, often being able to underscore the themes of sermons. Wright's great skill and thoughtful approach to his art brought a new dimension to religious music at First Baptist.

from THE SCOPE

1977

- Jan Mr. W. O. Absher and Mr. W. K. Sturdivant, Sr. are elected Deacons Emeriti.
- Feb A Sweetheart Banquet is planned with Mr. Wayne Church, Master of Ceremonies.
- Mar Chuck Moore earns God and Country Award.
- June The bell from the old sanctuary is hoisted into place in front of the Educational Building, thanks to the John T. Wayland Sunday School class.
- Oct Mr. & Mrs. Dan Bumgarner transfer membership from First Baptist Church, Raleigh.
- Dec New church library opens with Mrs. Doris Watson as Librarian.

1978

- May John T. Wayland Day is observed. A new car is given to the Waylands.
- Sept A new 1979 Ford van arrives for the church.
- Nov Mrs. Mickey (Clint) Bentley and Mrs. Pauline (J. Floyd) Woodward lead classes on Chrismon making for Christmas trees.

1979

- Jan Deacons organize into zones to enhance their ministry among church families.

- Apr Mrs. Theda (E. James) Moore is nominated for a seat on the State Board of Education.
Nancy Martinez directs "California Journey," a dramatic presentation by Acteens.
Mr. Max Foster is voted Deacon Emeritus.
- Sept Keen Agers surprise leaders, Jim and Lib Payne, with a reception on their wedding anniversary.

1980

- Jan Educational scholarship is established at Meredith College in memory of Mona Blevins McGilvary.
- Apr John T. Wayland Class donates materials for bird feeders to be placed at all North Carolina Baptist Homes. Feeders are made by Jim Graham's Vocational Agriculture class at West High.
- June Ken Shelton, son of Mr. & Mrs. E. J. Shelton, receives Eagle Award during worship service.
- July Mrs. Alice Harvel, church secretary, completes twenty years of service.
- Dec. Women of the Church have Christmas Tea at home of Mrs. Beverly Cook.

1981

- Feb Diaconate votes to participate in Wilkes Evangelism Crusade this summer.
- May Mrs. Madge Sturdivant is recognized as a member of the choir since 1932. Featured soloist is John Goodnow; Marty Province provides brass ensemble.
- June Children's Choir, under direction of Mrs. Ann Fortuna, sings.
- Oct. Missions Committee sponsors garage sale for Wilkes Cares and World Hunger.
- Nov. Single Young Adults go on retreat to Ridgecrest. Bill and Carol Clontz are leaders.
- Dec. Christmas Eve Communion and Candlelight Service is held.

1982

- Jan Maurice Bumgarner is part of the team going to Martinique, West Indies to complete work on a Baptist Church.
- Feb Barbara McKenzie prepares Valentine Banquet for the youth.
Men's Basketball League begins with Roger Bentley, Chairman of the Recreation Committee.
- Mar Singles have luncheon after worship service. Bill and Carol Clontz are leaders.
- Apr Bill Sturdivant II receives Eagle Award.
- May Alice Harvel Memorial Fund helps purchase new copier for the office.
- Aug Fall Family Fun with games and food is held at VFW Park. Mrs. Faith Hawkins and Mrs. Glenda Freeze are in charge.

1983

- Jan Mr. Reid McKenzie delivers sermon on Singles' Day. Singles lead music.
Search Committee looks for new minister of Music. Wayne Coffey, Marie Davis, Beverly Cook, Bob Hoggard, and Herb McKenzie serve.
- Feb Kenneth and Teresa Foster are leaders for new Sunday School class: Couples Class for Newly Weds.
Men help weatherize ten homes for the elderly and needy.
- April Frank Porter is employed as summer youth worker.
- June Mrs. Ruby Kilby donates new stoles for choir robes in memory of her husband, Conrad, and her mother-in-law, Mrs. Grace (Tom) Kilby.
- July Youth participate in Music Week at our Baptist Assembly-by-the-Sea.
- Oct. James Graham chairs committee to honor veterans by presenting flags for graves to families.
Reid McKenzie leaves for Chile to help Baptist men construct Sunday School classrooms.

1984

- Jan KeenAgers play Bingo at the first get-together of the new year.
Music ministry moves to new Ellihu E. Sloan Music Suite. Special thanks go to Roger Byrd, Ward Mastin, Reid McKenzie, and Jim Bentley for preparing the suite.
- Feb At RA/GA Sweetheart Banquet, Mac Mayberry and Donna Wyke are crowned King and Queen.
Basketball League begins.
Minister from N. W. Pentecostal Holiness speaks on Day of Pulpit Exchange.
- May Sandi Self, summer minister intern, is introduced.
- June Junior High Movie Night at home of Steve and Betty Foster.
- Aug Mrs. Ann (J.C.) Wallace is 100 years old.
- Sept New class for two year olds begins with Mrs. Pam Mayberry, director, and Mrs. Sandy Day, assistant.
- Oct Brushy Mountain Association dedicates annual to Mrs. Madge Sturdivant for outstanding service as historian.

1985

- Jan. Participants in Baptist Men's Day are Tommy Freeze, Stan Whittington, Craig Freas, Drew Mayberry, Reid McKenzie, Conley Call, Newell Dunn, and Dr. Jerry Watson.
- Feb We pledge interest and support to Eric Jennings and his family as he announces plans to enter Southeastern Seminary to study church music.
- Mar Youth teach Sunday School as part of Youth Month activities.
- April Simultaneous World Missions Conference for all Baptist Associations has kick-off rally in our sanctuary.
- Aug Russ Ferree is given Power of Attorney to sell property in Avery County owned jointly by YMCA and the church.

THE SEAL YEARS

1986 - 1992

In May of 1986, Dr. Welton O. Seal, Jr., became the nineteenth pastor of First Baptist. He received our call at St. John's Baptist Church in Charlotte, where he had been associate minister since 1983. His family joined him in June when the school term ended for sons Rusty and Charlie. Dr. Seal had remarkable credentials, even for a pastor in the First Baptist tradition of Wayland, Peacock, and Smith. He had earned his Bachelor of Arts at Louisiana State University, had studied at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, had taken a Master of Divinity from Duke University Divinity School, his Master of Philosophy and Ph.D. (New Testament Studies) at Union Theological Seminary, New York. He had done post-doctoral studies in Clinical Pastoral Education at Baptist Hospital/Bowman Gray School of Medicine in Winston-Salem.

Prior to assuming leadership of our church, Dr. Seal had contributed articles to significant Baptist publications, a practice he continued as pastor. But writing for publication was only one of many talents. When young people appealed to all ages to take part in a fun night, "Star Search," Seal revealed his musical talent on the guitar. When the junior high soccer team needed adult help, Seal gave his time as coach. At the same time, Dr. Seal showed a special aptitude for giving solace to the bereaved. The dignity and serenity of his funeral sermons impressed the whole community. Many recall the funeral of the beloved Miss Ruby Blackburn, long-time church member and former teacher, when Seal movingly shared the accumulated wisdom he had gleaned from the handwritten notes tucked into her well-worn Bible. Our first minister from the Baby Boomer generation, Seal was able to wear the many hats demanded of a modern minister, while showing himself to be, in the considered judgment of Dr. Wayland, an "able administrator and leader."

As with any new administration, there were changes in the status quo. From the beginning of his ministry, Dr. Seal made copies of his sermons available in the narthex. On Sundays, a hospitality table in the narthex encouraged visitors and members to get acquainted over coffee or punch. Later, a brochure with basic information about our church was printed for visitors. And, though we had long consecrated our children on Mother's Day, our new pastor initiated the practice of individual dedication of infants born into the church. Parents and congregation participated in this special ceremony.

As our leader, Dr. Seal soon unsettled our complacencies with thought-provoking sermons on Sundays and with penetrating Bible studies on Wednesday evenings. His wide knowledge of the Bible and his insightful exegeses of scripture left no doubts about his scholarship. His practice of calling attention to social issues and to world problems added perspective to our individual preoccupations. Intensely committed to his mission, he challenged members to rise above themselves. He emphasized the shared responsibility of the whole church family—congregation, staff, and friends—in all the ministries of the Christian church. Unflinching in his duty to his flock, he kept us informed of the ominous and far-reaching struggles within the Southern Baptist Convention.

In 1989, the quarrel between fundamentalists and moderate elements of the Southern Baptist Convention had erupted into open warfare. Fundamentalists said the issue was Biblical inerrancy, but most observers, inside and out, saw the conflict as a struggle for power. Many believed the most crucial of the traditional Baptist doctrines—the priesthood of the believer, the separation of church and state, and the local autonomy of churches—were threatened by a complete take-over by fundamentalist forces. Many of the denomination's best minds decried the purge, engineered by Paul Pressler and his cohorts, of those they called "non-conformists" from positions in the hierarchy. Inexorably, the battle for the soul of the Baptist faith embraced individual pastors and their churches, Baptist semi-

nary presidents and their faculties, and the Baptist bureaucracies throughout the South. Though unwanted and unsought by our members, the growing confrontation did not surprise First Baptist Church. There had been warnings by Dr. Wayland as early as 1950, there had been the dismissal of Dr. Peacock from Southern Seminary in 1958, and then there had been the alarms, loud and clear, sounded by our previous pastors about repressive direction of the convention. Dr. R. F. Smith recently observed with sadness that Southeastern Seminary, where he had attained his graduate degree, had become sick—a dying institution where aspiring ministers no longer could acquire a viable theological education.

Many members of our church, as Baptist laity in general, sought to ignore this denominational controversy. But reports kept coming back from the battlefields. Mr. and Mrs. James Payne, the only lay messengers from our church attending the 1987 National Convention in St. Louis, saw the fighting close up. They returned to report their disillusionment: “We were immediately aware of the hostility shown by the fundamentalists toward moderate messengers, and we were shocked at the sight of school-age children, brought in by their parents who were messengers, bearing convention credentials and ballots which enabled them to not only vote for candidates but to vote on the whole convention agenda.”

From the pulpit, Dr. Seal attempted to stir our congregation to awareness and to alert the laity that attacks on Baptist freedoms threatened the very nature of our traditions. While many church members shrank from these controversial matters, others did not. A substantial portion of the membership felt that First Baptist Church, which long had been recognized across the State as a progressive but moderate body, should rise to its heritage by endorsing and joining a newly-formed Baptist Alliance. This association of moderate congregations (recently re-named Alliance of Baptists) offered an alternate course from the narrow and repressive dicta of the national convention. In 1991, another moderate group, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, arose to resist simplistic and exclusive Southern

Baptist Convention policies. The struggle continues. Every Southern Baptist, whether he be fighting in the trenches or hiding in the bushes, will be affected.

Consistent with the Church's tradition of moderation, we have steered a middle course. Although First Baptist Church is connected with the Alliance of Baptists, to which some of our church members contribute as individuals, First Baptist retains its affiliation with the Southern Baptist Convention. In June of 1992, however, our church, like many other Baptist churches, sent no messengers to the convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. Our church's dual membership permits us a free and open choice to direct our money where it can do the most good for the glory of God. Individual church members have the option to contribute to whatever foreign or home mission programs they prefer or have the alternative of giving to worthy programs nearer home.

Early in Dr. Seal's tenure, the church voted to embark upon a campaign to build a new fellowship hall. It was agreed that no groundbreaking should occur until 80% of necessary funds had been pledged, and a full 50% was in hand. The sale of the parsonage in 1975 provided a nestegg for the project. In December, 1986, the church launched the program "Building Our Fellowship." Soon thereafter, Wayne Coffey, Chairman of the Building Committee, announced monetary goals for the building. Prayer visitors were assigned the task of visiting every church family to encourage generous giving. The Church sponsored a kick-off banquet for the entire membership at the Walker Center. With his characteristic enthusiasm for a worthy cause, Dr. Seal's stirring address, "Not Equal Gifts, But Equal Sacrifice," was answered by lay people Mrs. Pam (Drew) Mayberry, Mrs. Ala Sue (Keith) Wyke, and Max Foster. Raymond Blevins gave a progress report and Dr. Conrad Shaw the benediction.

Though in 1978, the church had agreed that the building be named the "John T. Wayland Fellowship Hall," the name was changed to the "Wayland Fellowship Hall," thereby honoring

both Dr. John and his wife, Eunice, for their many years of service.

Once again in its history, First Baptist Church rose to the challenge, for within a month of the kick-off sufficient funds had been pledged. Soon thereafter the 50% was in hand, and the construction contract was let on October 18, 1989. Dedication took place on December 9, 1990. Mr. William Rogers was invited back to give the address, and he was assisted by Dr. William C. McKinney, Director of Missions for the Brushy Mountain Association. A portrait of Dr. and Mrs. Wayland was given a prominent spot in the new, colonial-style building, which has 7880 square feet, a multi-functional floor plan, a raised stage, and a modern institutional kitchen. It already has served the Church well for Wednesday evening dinners and as a meeting place for many special occasions. At several times the Church has used the hall for worship service for a matter of weeks—once during the refurbishing of our sanctuary, and again in May, 1992, when a new heating and air conditioning system was installed in the sanctuary.

During the periods of construction and renovation, the church population continued meeting its needs as necessary. In the early '90's a most effective tape ministry began. Sunday worship services were recorded and lay people delivered players to shut-in members. This ministry continues to reach a number of otherwise unserved members. (Though a similar plan was implemented 20 years ago, it lacked the advantages of advanced technological equipment.) When the children's building was in desperate need of sprucing up, members pitched in to prepare and to paint the walls. When the Persian Gulf Crisis shattered our tranquillity with a threat of imminent war, Dr. Seal led an ecumenical gathering in prayers for peace. Just as our country had banded together and put aside the cynicism of the previous decade, our community showed an unparalleled outpouring of support for this endeavor. On the brink of war, our church hosted a Prayer Vigil which was described by attendees as the most

powerful and moving worship experience of their lives. The church was filled to capacity. Taking part in this service were the following ministers and laity:

Welton Seal - First Baptist Church, North Wilkesboro
William Rowe - Damascus Baptist Church
Ann Fortuna - St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Frank Cintula - St. John's Catholic Church
Carolyn Ashworth - First Baptist Church
Rob Evans - North Wilkesboro Presbyterian Church
Romie Horton - Parks Grove Baptist Church
Bill Medlin - First United Methodist Church
Ami Hill - North Wilkesboro Presbyterian Church

January 1992 found First Baptist Church in its centennial year. Mr. E. James Moore and Mrs. Pat M. Day were appointed by the Diaconate to co-chair a year-long celebration. Thanks to their organizational efforts, committees were quickly in place and working diligently to make the year a memorable one. Each of the the surviving pastors was invited to serve as guest minister during our 100th anniversary year. All agreed readily. Displays of memorabilia were set up in the hallway between the Educational Building and the Fellowship Hall; members were urged to identify people and scenes from the past; bulletin boards throughout the buildings charted our heritage.

But the celebratory pride which a centennial year deserves has been darkened by acrimony. For reasons unclear, discord developed among some members in the late 1980's and continued to mount until it affected a substantial segment of the congregation. This faction laid the blame for the strong support of various policy changes over the years on the current pastor. In April of 1990, responding to the members who had grown more restive and increasingly vocal as their factional discontent escalated, the Diaconate recommended to a church conference that First Baptist seek the advice of Dr. Dewey Hobbs, Director of the Department of Pastoral Care at North Carolina Baptist Hospital. The membership voted to hire Dr. Hobbs as a consultant, in order to seek direction in resolving differences. In May 1990, Dr. Hobbs and his associate, Neil

Chafin, explained their program and procedure to the congregation and solicited questions. Their plan was to identify goals for the church and to help develop means whereby the church could set those goals and could enhance fellowship. These advisers then set up meetings with individuals and groups to ventilate their concerns about any church matters. Eighty-two members availed themselves of this opportunity. Hobbs and Chafin also recommended that the Diaconate participate in a structured retreat designed to seek reconciliation and spiritual healing consensus. Following an evaluation of the Diaconate's retreat and of the individual and group conferences, the experts then recommended a Reconciliation Committee and suggested a list of specific issues such a group should address. The committee was designed to reflect fairly the demographics of the Church regarding age, gender, and length of membership. In October 1990, after nominations and voting, the church approved a 15-member committee to report to the congregation and to serve as liason to the congregation, the Diaconate, and the staff. The committee, duly elected in the manner of deacons, chose Mrs. Tana Morrow as chairperson. In January, 1991, the committee stated its mission was "to seek God's guidance as we endeavor to challenge, unite, and strengthen our church."

After numerous meetings, the Reconciliation Committee sent surveys to 561 adult church members as a means of gathering information and understanding preferences. Of the 124 members who responded, 104 of them answered all 17 questions dealing with aspects of church life. A wide majority of respondents affirmed the committee's approach and agreed with its goals as a means of settling differences. While the committee worked diligently to find a solution to the Church's problems, the divisive forces alienated other members by making Dr. Seal's character the center of the controversy. Divisive rumors and unrelenting criticism continued to heighten tensions between supporters and opponents of our senior minister, however.

In April, 1992, in compliance with a recommendation from the Reconciliation Committee, a Pastor/Congregation Relations Committee was established by the Diaconate, its members drawn from the Diaconate. Roscoe McNeil is chairing this committee. As of this date, July 1, 1992, the controversy has impaired our beleaguered minister and diminished the vigor and reputation of our church. All who respect First Baptist Church's history and promise must hope that prudent decisions will prevail.

from THE SCOPE

1986

- May Church sponsors "Day In The Park" for families.
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Bradburn become grandparents of a baby girl, Emily Smoak.
- June "Wonderful Wednesday" for children in grades 1-6 begins.
- July Mrs. Ruby Adams' Sunday School class completely staffs her hospital room during her last illness.
Ramona Curtis is interim organist; Mary Jane (Harrold) Triplett, pianist.
Nathan Atwood wins Junior division of Statue of Liberty Art contest. He is the son of Mr. & Mrs. William M. Atwood.
- Aug Weekday preschool opens - Director/Teacher for 3 and 4 year olds is Mrs. Phyllis (John) Kilby, assisted by Mrs. Sandy (Frank) Day.. Mrs. Pam (Drew) Mayberry leads 2 year olds; assistant, Mrs. Karen (Gary) Newman.
- Sept "KeenAgers" group is 10 years old.
- Oct Mrs. Pat (Dan) Bumgarner and Ron Canter are ordained as Deacons.
Over \$3,000 is collected for World Hunger Day.
- Nov Mr. & Mrs. Gary Coffey are parents of a baby girl, Ashton.
- Dec Gregg Wright conducts Wilkes County Chorus in Handel's "Messiah" in our sanctuary.

1987

- Jan Sermon by Dr. Seal, "Ministry: A Gift We Share," is published in **SBC Today**. Church sponsors Bloodmobile; 100 people donate blood in honor of Jeffrey Battle.
- Mar Mr. & Mrs. Russell Ferree are parents of baby girl, Chelsie.
- Apr Mrs. Doris Watson pleads for supplies needed in Nicaragua. Response is very good.
- May Family Life and Recreation Committee sponsors trip to Asheboro zoo.
- July Youth group goes to Hollister, North Carolina, a depressed area, to refurbish building used for church. Group conducts VBS in the evenings. Participants, Mark Adams, Laura Brooks, Mark Cook, Carey Johnson, Marie McDonald, Kristi Miller, Beverly Nichols, Jeff Nichols, and Rusty Seal.
- Aug Miss Pat McNeil receives B.S. from Gardner-Webb.
- Sept Mrs. Pat M. Day and family give church a large screen television, VCR, camcorder, tripod, and carrying cases. Church provides meal for migrant workers harvesting apples. Sunday morning service is a surprise tribute to Dr. and Mrs. Wayland. Sizable love offering is presented. Church receives monetary gift from estate of Mrs. Hallie Waugh Dimmette.
- Nov Mrs. Ethel Moore is oldest living church member.
- Dec Choir presents "Gloria" with soloists Betty Foster Barefoot, Mrs. Sally (Steve) Bare, Marty Province and Steve Bare.

1988

- Jan Chris Carter uses his two-weeks vacation to help other North Carolina Baptists renovate a building used by a Baptist congregation in Holland. Various church members help with expenses. Community-wide shelter for homeless is proposed. Northside is used for first year.
- Feb Laity Day participants are Jim Andrews, Linda Bentley, Chris Carter, Harriet Compton, Russell Ferree, Vivian Greene, Frank Mayberry, and Karen Newman.
- Apr First SBA publication, **Being Baptist Means Freedom**, is available. Suzanne McKenzie is recognized as Honor Senior in Special Education at ASU.

- June Gregg Wright serves as one of 10 Regional Directors for North Carolina Baptist Music Department.
- July Mike Bullock is presented a golf jacket in appreciation for his preparing and serving family night suppers for nine months. Youth group joins other Baptists from across U.S. to provide day camp for children in Cumberland mountains. Tisha Miller forfeits opportunity to test for driver's license to take part in this mission.
- Oct CROP walk for hunger is scheduled.
Sunday School is begun at Wilkes Towers with adults from First Baptist participating. Fran Bond, Cassandra Lanier, Janet Lindsey, Mary Jane Triplette serve as pianists.
- Dec Deacons deliver poinsettias used in sanctuary to shut-ins.

1989

- Jan Dr. Seal's article, "Prophets in a Pickle," appears in **Faith and Mission**, a scholarly aid published twice annually by the faculty of Southeastern Seminary.
- Mar Easter portion of "Messiah" is presented with soprano soloist Carla Bowers.
- Apr Men of church gather for Spring Spruce-up of grounds.
Ground breaking ceremony of Wayland building is held.
- May Mr. & Mrs. Ronnie Osborne are parents of a baby girl, Martha Jane.
Youth honor Mrs. Manie Beshears for 61 years work with young people.

1989

- July Mr. Maurice Walsh completes term in the highest office attainable in the Christian rite of Masonry and is the only North Carolinian to hold this office.
- Aug Alan Richey, Minister of Education and Youth since 1980, resigns
- Sept Women assist in ushering during worship for first time. Participants are Mrs. Betty (Steve) Foster, Mrs. Nan McNeill, Mrs. Grace Frank (Lott) Mayberry.
Chris Carter is ordained as Deacon.
- Oct Mr. & Mrs. Guy Bumgarner give church a new van.
Eric Jennings is ordained for Christian ministry.
Worship attendance is up 9% over last year; Sunday School is up 5%.

1990

- Feb Article and picture of Ground Breaking Ceremony for Fellowship Hall appear in **Biblical Recorder**.
- May Rebecca Call is inducted into Alpha Chi National Honor Society at ASU.
- June Mrs. Jerri (Frank) Mayberry is recognized as Young Dietician of the Year .
Tana Morrow resigns as interim Youth Director.
John Willardson, Chairman of Personnel Committee, asks for applications for Minister of Youth and Education.
- July Mrs. Kimberly (Robert) Laney is employed as interim Minister of Youth and Education for one year.
- Sept Mrs. Kimberly Laney and Mrs. Pat (Dan) Bumgarner report on SBA meeting they attended in Greensboro. Among speakers present: Dr. Richard Groves of Winston-Salem, National President of SBA, and Mr. Dan Martin, one of two journalists fired by the executive committee of the SBC.
- Oct Pat Bumgarner, Sunday School Director and Kimberly Laney attend three day seminar in Louisville, KY. Presentations are given by representatives of several Christian publishers.

1991

- Jan Three vacancies on the Diaconate are filled by Vaughn Hayes, Barbara McKenzie, and Tommy Caudill, Jr.
The family of Claude Triplette designates funds from Claude Triplette Memorial be used to purchase new lectern for Wayland Building and duplicating equipment to enable church to begin tape ministry for members unable to attend services.
- Mar Dr. Tom Graves, newly elected president of Baptist Theological Seminary, Richmond, Virginia, speaks at worship service.
- Aug Plans to renovate sanctuary are approved by congregation.
- Oct Worship service is held in Wayland Building until redecorating sanctuary is completed.

1992

- Jan Centennial celebration begins with the return of Dr. Browning ('44 -'47) delivering Sunday sermon. Also present are Mrs. Elsie Welborn, organist and Mrs. Wanda Kerley Lewis, secretary during this period.

- Feb Men of the Church split and deliver 4 pick-up truck loads of wood to one of our adopted families.
- Mar Mrs. Karen Newman resigns as director/teacher of Weekday Preschool. Mrs. Phyllis Kilby assumes duties. Mrs. Sandy Day resigns after 8 years as assistant teacher.
- Mar Diaconate votes to activate the Church Council as outlined in church constitution. Council consists of ministers and organizational leaders. Meets monthly to review programs, schedule activities and share ideas.
Men of the Church have special offering to aid Wilkes Chapter of Habitat for Humanity in building a house.
- Apr Mrs. Elizabeth Wagoner is speaker for family night.
Dr. Seal is elected vice president of the Alliance of Baptists at its fifth anniversary meeting.
- May Tara Shumaker is accepted at North Carolina School of the Arts to study Modern Dance.

EPILOGUE

As we conclude our narrative on this date, July 1,
1992, we are not unaware that deep division
exists in North Wilkesboro First Baptist Church.

We can only echo the words of the Apostle Paul,
writing to factions in the early church at Corinth,
“Finally, brethren, farewell. Mend your ways,
heed my appeal, agree with one another,
live in peace, and the God of love
and peace will be with you.”
(II Corinthians 13:11)



NORTHSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

Our fifty year story cannot be written without the inclusion of Northside Chapel. For the last half century, the history of First Baptist Church has been intertwined with that of Northside.

Northside mission was initiated in 1940 as a community Sunday School for the people living in the Woodlawn section of North Wilkesboro. It utilized a small building which had been constructed by the WPA in the 1930's and which then was owned by the Town. The service was begun as a joint venture of North Wilkesboro's First Baptist, First Methodist, and Presbyterian churches. Twelve years later, in April 1952, our church assumed sole responsibility for the mission, with members of First Baptist serving as workers. D. E. Elledge was elected first Sunday School superintendent. John West, Mr. Elledge's assistant, took full charge a few months later, serving until 1955. In that year, worship services were begun by C. S. Welborn, the mission's first pastor. R. H. (Bob) McNeill was elected Sunday School superintendent, a post he held until 1958. It is reported that the Sunday School enrollment in 1957 was 66, the average attendance was 30, with an average Sunday offering of \$11.49.

Several First Baptist members have had long-standing commitments to the program at Northside. When C. S. Welborn resigned the pastorate in 1958, the mission found itself in a precarious situation. James M. Bentley recalls that many First Baptist members appeared to have lost interest in the mission. The result was that our church members were reluctant to take posts outside the main church family. Mr. Bentley credits Raymond Blevins for the alleviation of this problem. Having previously taught Sunday School at Northside, Mr. Blevins understood Northside's needs, and as chairman of First Baptist's nominations committee, he secured the necessary workers to staff Northside's Sunday School. Wayne Church agreed to become superintendent with Frank Allen, Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Greene,

Miss Marcile Deal, Raymond Blevins, and James M. Bentley serving on the teaching staff.

Dr. Heber Peacock who had become First Baptist's pastor in the same year, volunteered his services as preacher at the mission. He conducted worship services at 9:30 a.m. each Sunday and prayer services on Thursday evenings.

In February 1960, Rev. Charles Poole was called as associate minister by our church. His primary duty was to be the regular pastor of Northside. Tall and lanky, sincere and down-to-earth, he held this position for six years.

Frank Allen served as Sunday School Superintendent from 1961 until the election of James Bentley in 1962. Mr. Bentley would retain this position for 28 years. By 1963 Sunday School enrollment had increased to 151, with an average attendance of 68 and an average offering of \$55.81.

From this time until the middle of 1970's, Northside became a veritable beehive of activity. In 1963, the North Wilkesboro sister churches, First Methodist and Presbyterian, renewed their interest. Under the ægis of the three churches, Northside Kindergarten was begun. Mrs. Ann (Clarence) Wiles was chosen as teacher. The Kindergarten promoted basic social, health, and spiritual training for all pre-school children in the Woodlawn community. Mrs. Wiles remembers that Mrs. Doug McElwee of North Wilkesboro Presbyterian church was the inspirational founder of the school. Mrs. Wiles also cites the spirit of cooperation between the churches during her tenure. Donations provided by many individuals insured that the children had warm clothing for the winter months. She also remembers several people volunteered their invaluable services: the late Joe Reinhardt, treasurer; Mrs. Ora Owen, Mrs. Hilda Kendrick, Mrs. Hilda Holder, and Raymond Blevins. The school discontinued its operation when the public school system instituted its K-1 program in 1976.

After the interim pastorate of Rev. N. C. Teague for several months in late 1966, Rev. David Creech became pastor in January

1967. When Mr. Creech resigned in 1970, Allen Laymon, who had become First Baptist's pastor in 1967, took up preaching duties at the mission. This coincided with another major development for Northside.

Property adjoining the Northside building was owned by several Wilkes County citizens and by the town of North Wilkesboro. Most of the lots were minuscule. From 1967 to 1971, First Baptist church acquired, through a series of deeds and donations, full ownership of the building and the land, which accommodated parking and playground facilities. First Baptist members who donated property were Mr. and Mrs. Max Ferrec, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Church, and Mr. and Mrs. James Bentley. Through the quiet but deep generosity of Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Brame, Jr. and Mrs. Margaret Coffey, a playground for the children in the community became a reality in early 1971. A record high attendance of 154 was attained Easter Sunday, April 11, 1971, with Allen Laymon leading the service.

When Keith Howell, who had become pastor in February 1973, resigned in December of the same year, Mr. Laymon resumed his Sunday services, alternating Sundays with Dr. John T. Wayland, who had now returned as First Baptist's associate minister. Dr. Wayland conducted a successful five-day revival at the mission in January 1974. The next year saw additions and renovations to Northside. The expanded sanctuary, a new foyer, and four new Sunday School rooms were completed in May. On August 24, 1975, the congregation observed a dedication service with Rev. Charles Poole, former pastor delivering the dedication sermon. The service was led by Glenn Graves, a Mars Hill college graduate and Southeastern Seminary student who had become the new pastor the previous June. Allen Laymon paid tribute to James Bentley's long and dedicated service as Sunday School Superintendent: "For all of his time, talents, and energy spent in real love for the people of this community and church, we are most grateful . . . Jim, thank you for what you have meant in the past and will mean in the future."

When Mr. Graves left the church as pastor in September 1976, he was replaced the next month by Grady Kerley, who served

until June 1980. At the resignation of Rev. Kerley, our church's staff, as in past years, stepped in. Rev. William B. Rogers, Dr. John T. Wayland, and Alan Richey, minister of Education, served as interim leaders for several months until Hobert Key was called in November 1980. They again served as interims when Rev. Key resigned in November 1983. Late in November, Hadley Triplett became the new pastor, remaining until June 1989, when Rev. Hobert Key was recalled.

On May 20, 1990, with a church attendance of 128, Northside became a duly constituted Southern Baptist Church. Rev. Key continues to serve as its pastor. During its first year, the church reported that it had added 27 members. The total offering received during this first year was \$29,245.00, an average of \$562.00 per week. Of undesignated offerings, 15% was given to missions. Many improvements were made in 1990, including purchase of a new piano, construction of a kneeling bench and prayer rail in the sanctuary, installation of new carpeting, purchase of new pulpit chairs with gifts made in the memory of Claude Triplett, and repainting throughout the interior. The 1990 report concluded with the cheerful statement, "The Lord has truly blessed Northside and after its first year as a church, it is alive, well, and debt-free."

One only has to view, in 1992, the lovely Northside church and the surrounding area to realize, through these fifty years, that many Christian hearts and hands have responded to the challenge and have shaped Northside's present and its future.

NORTHSIDE PASTORS

C. S. WELBORN 1955—1958
HEBER PEACOCK 1958—1960
CHARLES J. POOLE FEBRUARY 1960—JULY 1966
N. C. TEAGUE AUGUST 1966—DECEMBER 1966 (INTERIM)
DAVID CREECH JANUARY 1967—NOVEMBER 1970
ALLEN LAYMON DECEMBER 1970—JANUARY 1973
KEITH HOWELL FEBRUARY 1973—DECEMBER 1973
ALLEN LAYMON & JOHN T. WAYLAND JAN. 1974—JUNE 1975
GLENN GRAVES JUNE 1975—SEPTEMBER 1976
GRADY KERLEY OCTOBER 1976—JUNE 1980
WILLIAM ROGERS, JOHN WAYLAND, ALAN RICHEY JULY 1980—NOV. 1980
(INTERIMS)
HOBERT KEY NOVEMBER 1980—JULY 1983
WILLIAM ROGERS, JOHN WAYLAND, ALAN RICHEY AUG. 1983--NOV. 1983
(INTERIMS)
HADLEY TRIPLETT NOVEMBER 1983—JUNE 1989
HOBERT KEY JULY 1989—

NORTHSIDE SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

D. E. ELLEDGE APRIL 1952—AUGUST 1952
JOHN WEST 1952—1955
R. H. (BOB) MCNEILL 1955—1958
WAYNE CHURCH 1958—1961
FRANK ALLEN 1961—1962
JAMES BENTLEY 1962—1990



SECOND STREET BAPTIST CHURCH GORDON BAPTIST CHURCH

In his history, **The Land of Wilkes**, Judge Johnson J. Hayes noted that First Baptist Church “sponsored and organized” Second Baptist Church of North Wilkesboro (1907) and Gordon Baptist Church on the other side of Reddies River (1919). While these events properly belong to the history of First Baptist’s first fifty years, many descendants of those early sponsors and members are currently among the First Baptist fold; therefore, a brief account is included herein.

Rev. W. F. Staley was First Baptist’s second pastor, serving from 1905 to 1908, and again from 1918-1921. During his first tenure, Staley led First Baptist to establish a church on Second Street. He and Rev. L. B. Murray were among the organizers. The original frame building was replaced with a new brick structure in 1960. Over the years, Second Street has remained a strong, independent institution.

During his second term as pastor, W. F. Staley, again with the assistance of Rev. L. B. Murray helped “constitute” Gordon Baptist Church. Murray served as its first pastor, and again in 1932. Located on Gordon Hill (called Cotton Mill Hill) near the site of the antebellum Gordon family home (now the location of the Wilkes Regional Medical Center), the land was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie Canter, the parents of Mrs. Louise (Claude) Elledge. Mrs. Elledge also remembers that Charles Mitchell and Mr. and Mrs. Banner McNeill also contributed to the Church’s organization. She recalls that three First Baptist deacons of that era made significant contributions to the fledgling church: Dr. W. P. Horton, E. E. Eller, and J. W. Nichols. Ms Lunda Hendren, later First Baptist’s long-time church secretary, helped in the formation of Gordon Baptist’s Sunday School and Girl’s Auxiliary. Today, Gordon Baptist still thrives in its new location on Highway 421 Bypass.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH LIBRARY

During the past twenty years, the library has become a valuable asset to the Church. Over 1,500 volumes make up our collection, which concentrates on providing reference, devotional and supplementary biblical information for our church family. We also have children's books, biographies, fiction, and the Wayland Collection (books given by Dr. Wayland, located to your right as you enter the library). **Today's Christian Woman** is a magazine we have been subscribing to which has been very popular among our women readers. The large-print **Reader's Digest** (back issues) are available as well.

We are currently building a video tape collection that will bring educational as well as inspirational enjoyment to our church. The library is currently open on Sunday mornings and is kept open by the volunteers of the Library Committee.

Janet Atwood, *Librarian*

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH BOY SCOUT TROOP 34

The Boy Scout movement in Wilkes County and at First Baptist Church has had a long, honorable history. In **North Wilkesboro: The First Hundred Years**, Jay Anderson notes that in 1915 the first Boy Scout troop was led by Richard G. Finley of North Wilkesboro Presbyterian Church for "an uncertain time." The first sponsored by First Baptist, Troop 334, was organized in April 1937. Meeting jointly with troop 335 of First Methodist Church, both troops were led by Scoutmaster H. D. Clark and by Assistant Scoutmaster Effner Eller. In 1939, Isaac Duncan succeeded Mr Clark, remaining until he moved to St. Louis in 1941, when Mr. Clark returned to lead the troop. After World War II, the old troop 334 was reorganized as troop 34, with First Baptist as sole sponsor. At this time, only five boys were participating. In the February 6, 1948, **First Baptist News**, A. M. Bush was listed as assistant Scoutmaster and G. R. Andrews, Harold Burke, Clint Foster, and Gilbert Foster as Scout committeemen. Mr. Duncan, who had returned to Wilkes County in 1946, had resumed his post as Scoutmaster. In the May 6, 1949, church newsletter, Mr. Duncan made an urgent appeal to parents to encourage their sons to join scouting activities, stating he felt at least twenty boys were needed to make an effective troop. His plea apparently bore fruit because by 1952, sixty-four boys had joined Troop 34. In the same year, Buster Bush became Scoutmaster.

The years that followed were perhaps the golden days of Troop 34. Weekend camping trips in winter and summer, marching practice up and down the streets near the Church, and summer sessions at Old Hickory Council's camp at Raven Knob were among usual troop activities. Paper drives and other Scout services to community and church were among the troop's contributions. The church's newsletter reported during this era

that three un-named scouts had rescued a drowning couple during a camping trip. Sixty-five Scouts attained the rank of Eagle, and many Scouts received God and Country awards in ceremonies at our church's worship services.

First Baptist Church formed the first Cub pack in 1954. Cub scouting was designed for boys between the ages of eight and eleven. The progressive ranks of Wolf, Bear, Lion, and Webelo served to prepare boys to enter the Boy Scout program at age twelve. Mothers of these young boys volunteered to be Den Mothers, meeting with the boys weekly at the church or in their homes. Den chiefs, drawn from the ranks of the Boy Scout troop, assisted at den meetings and helped in programs for monthly Pack meetings. Homer Brookshire was the first Cub Master and Mrs. Valeria Belle (Gilbert) Foster was first program chairman for the Pack meetings. Women of our church serving as Den Mothers included Mrs. Sina (Maurice) Walsh, Mrs. Nan McNeill, Mrs. Margaret (Clint) Foster, Mrs. Ann (C.D.) Wiles, Mrs. Nina (Roy) Crouse, Mrs. Pat Day, and Mrs. Grace Frank (Lott) Mayberry. Den chiefs who are remembered by former Den Mothers included Maurice Elledge, Ben Phillips, Gordon Foster, Bill Newton, and Hayes McNeill.

Boy Scout Troop 34 held their meetings in the Social Room of the Church's Education building for many years. When the room was closed for renovations during the pastorate of Allen Laymon, it necessitated a move to the Scout Hut as a meeting place. This move from First Baptist and decreasing financial support signaled the end of our church's involvement and sponsorship of Troop 34. The troop disbanded in the middle 1980's, lacking church sponsorship. There was a movement away from church support for scout troops in favor of Royal Ambassadors (RA's) for Baptist boys. This trend hastened the demise of many Baptist church-sponsored scout troops, according to several former Scout officials. Only North Wilkesboro Presbyterian Church has continued its sponsorship of a Boy Scout program, a commitment to boys and to their futures which it has kept for over sixty years.

Many Wilkes County men have given time, talent, and dedication over several decades to the Boy Scout program and the old Hickory Council, among them:

Isaac Duncan	Kiffin Hennesee
A. M. (Buster) Bush	Roy Forehand
Homer Brookshire	Edward Bell
C. D. (Doc) Wiles	Gilbert Foster
Clint Foster	G. R. Andrews
Harold Burke	Hight Helms
Dr. W. K. Newton	John Bentley
Carl Steele	E. R. Spruill
Frank Bentley	R. M. Brame
R. C. Jennings	Ance Church
H. D. Clark	Effner Eller
Rex Handy	J. Floyd Woodward

FIRST BAPTIST MEN IN WAR
(MEMBERS AT THE TIME OF THEIR SERVICE)

WORLD WAR II

JAMES ALLEN*	JOHN ALLEN
WILLIAM FRANK ALLEN	BOBBY ANDREWS
IRA LEE BAKER	TAL BARNES, JR.*
JOHN KERMIT BLACKBURN*	RESTER BLACKBURN*
JUSTICE BREWER, JR.	HOMER BROOKSHIRE
WILLIAM RICHARD BULLIS	WALTER W. CALL*
THOMAS LEE CAUDILL	WAYNE CAUDILL
RALPH CHURCH	JAMES TURNER CREWS
E. D. DANCY, JR.	ROBERT DAVIS*
BOBBY FRANK DAY*	CHARLES DAY, JR.*
ED DAY	AMOS CARL DENNIS
JAMES ALBERT DENNIS	WILLIAM LESTER DENNIS
ERNEST E. ELLER*	KELLER N. ELLER*
WALTER EMERSON	JESSE J. FERRIS, JR.**
CLINT FOSTER	HANCEL C. FOSTER
RAY M. FOSTER	ZANE GREY FOSTER
U. W. FOSTER	WAYNE GENTRY
J. D. GETTYS	M. W. GREENE, JR.
PAUL HAIGWOOD	THOMAS J. HAIGWOOD
CHARLES DWIGHT HORTON*	CHARLES HUDSON
ORIN M. HUDSON*	W. J. HUDSON*
WILLIAM L. HUDSON	CHARLES JENKINS
J. H. JOINES, JR.	HALE JONES*
GLYN KERBAUGH*	LYNN C. KERBAUGH*
HARRY KERLEY	MACK KERLEY*
A. L. KILBY	CONRAD J. KILBY*
GWYN KILBY	MAX C. KILBY
JAMES LOWE	ARCHIE F. McNEIL
DR. J. H. McNEILL*	ROSCOE McNEIL

* KNOWN DEAD

** KILLED IN ACTION

WORLD WAR II (CONTINUED)

DON MELVILLE*	JOSEPH C. MILLER
WILLIAM A. MILLER	JAMES MINTON
RAYMOND MINTON	E. JAMES MOORE
GRANVILLE MYERS	JOHN I. MYERS*
J. C. PARDUE	PAUL PARDUE*
PHIL REYNOLDS	JAMES RAY SHOEMAKER
HOUSTON J. STEELMAN	MARCUS J. STEELMAN
ROBERT G. THARRINGTON	ARCHIE R. TRIPLETT*
CLAUDE H. TRIPLETT*	WRENN VANNOY
CLAUDE E. WALLACE	REGINALD E. WALTON
CLAUDE M. WAUGH	CLARENCE WILES
CRYSTAL S. WILLIAMS	

KOREAN WAR

JACK BADGETT	BILLIE B. BUMGARNER
WILLIAM E. CASEY	CHARLES L. CAUDILL
WAYNE E. DAVIS	CLATE DUNCAN, JR.
JAMES C. DUNCAN, JR.	JAMES F. EMERSON
JOHN H. EMERSON	PAUL J. FOSTER
WALTER FOSTER	CECIL GRAYSON
JAMES G. HADLEY	DAN H. HUDSON
TOMMY M. KILBY	RICHARD T. MCNEIL
G. E. MILLER	E. JAMES MOORE
WALTER MORPHIS	DWIGHT E. PARDUE
ALBERT POTEAT	BOBBY L. POTEAT
FLOYD PRUITT	DON REINS
WARREN E. SHORE	GEORGE SMOAK
JULIUS C. YATES	

VIETNAM WAR

H. F. ALLEN
HOMER BROOKSHIRE, JR.
DONALD ELLER**
BILL KINLAW

W. J. ALLEN
TIM DAY
M. E. HELMS
C. A. SHAW, JR.

NATIONAL GUARD

FRANK DAY

PERSIAN GULF WAR

JOEL CLAY BOYLES

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH DIACONATE

Deacons Rotating off in 1992

KEITH BENTLEY
PAT M. DAY
RUSSELL FERREE
U. W. FOSTER
FRANK MAYBERRY
CONRAD SHAW

New Deacons Elected in 1992

WAYNE COFFEY
HAL GREENE
ROBERT GREENE
JOHN KILBY
E. JAMES MOORE
GORDON RHODES

CLINT BENTLEY—(TERMS ENDING 1993)

CHRIS CARTER
VAUGHN HAYES
DREW MAYBERRY
BARBARA MCKENZIE
ROSCOE MCNEIL

JAMES ANDREWS—(TERMS ENDING 1994)

B. J. BARE
JOHN BATTLE
CONLEY CALL
TOMMY CAUDILL, JR
JAMES PAYNE

RAYMOND BLEVINS—(TERMS ENDING 1995)

HAL HAWKINS
R. T. MCNEIL
TANA MORROW
BILL STRINGFIELD
JAMES WADDELL

Officers 1991-1992

Chairperson—Drew Mayberry
Vice Chairperson—Keith Bentley
Secretary—Pat M. Day
Asst. Secretary—Roscoe McNeil
Exec. Committee—John Battle
Exec. Committee—Conley Call

Officers 1992 - 1993

Chairperson—Wayne Coffey
Vice Chairperson—E. James Moore
Secretary—Roscoe McNeil
Asst. Sec.—Barbara McKenzie
Exec. Committee—Conley Call
Exec. Committee—John Battle

Deacons Emeriti

Homer Brookshire, Sr.

Ance M. Church (died in 1992)

Max Foster

Gladys Llewellyn

Maurice Walsh

FIRST BAPTIST MEMBERS WHO HAVE SERVED ON
BOARDS AND COMMITTEES OF THE NORTH
CAROLINA STATE BAPTIST CONVENTION

Committee on Committees

ELLIHU SLOAN

MRS. CAROLYN (DERWOOD) ASHWORTH

Committee on Nominations

MRS. NAN McNEILL

Biblical Recorder

ROSCOE McNEIL

North Carolina Baptist Hospital

FRANCIS GARVIN

N.C. Baptist Hospital Pastorial Care Foundation

MRS. TANA MORROW

North Carolina Baptist Homes for the Aging

MRS. ELIZABETH (JAMES) PAYNE

North Carolina Baptist Childrens' Home

LEWIS HILL JENKINS

North Carolina Baptist General Board

RAYMOND BLEVINS - *Missions committee*

MRS. NAN McNEILL - *Council of Higher Education*

CECIL LEE PORTER - *Council of Higher Education*

North Carolina Baptist Boards of Trustees

Mars Hill College
Mrs. Madge Sturdivant
Cecil Lee Porter

Meredith College
Mrs. Gladys Llewellyn
Wayne Coffey

Wake Forest University
Petro Kulynych

Alliance of Baptists

MRS. PAT (DAN) BUMGARNER - *Executive Committee of N.C. Chapter*

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Research

Mrs. Frances Bond
Mrs. Doris Watson
Mrs. Grace Frank Mayberry
Mrs. Jean Kirby
Mrs. Nan McNeill

Writers

Mrs. Jean Kirby
Mrs. Nan McNeill
Mrs. Grace Frank Mayberry

Photography

Dan Bumgarner

Editing and Layout

Hayes McNeill
(underwritten by History Committee)

Recollections of former pastors and their wives

Recollections of church members

J. Floyd Woodward's tribute to R. F. Smith, Jr.

Brief History of Church Library - Mrs. Janet Atwood

Boy Scout Troop 34 - Recollections of A.M. Bush and Kiffin Hennessee

Northside Chapel Recollections - James M. Bentley and Mrs. Ann Wiles

Gordon Baptist Church Recollections - Mrs. Louise Elledge and Mrs. Pat Day

Typing - Mrs. Susan Anderson

BIBLIOGRAPHY

First Baptist Church News.

The Scope of the First Baptist Church.

Brushy Mountain Association Minutes.

Golden Anniversary, First Baptist Church History, 1892—1942.

The Journal Patriot.

Jay Anderson. **History of North Wilkesboro: First Hundred Years.** The North Wilkesboro Centennial Committee, North Wilkesboro, North Carolina. 1990.

Johnson Jay Hayes. **The Land of Wilkes.** Wilkes County Historical Society. Wilkesboro, North Carolina. 1962.

First Baptist Church Minutes.

PASTORS OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH 1942-1992

(in alphabetical order)

DAVID BROWNING
JOHN KINCHELOE
ALLEN LAYMON
HEBER PEACOCK
WILLIAM ROGERS
WELTON SEAL
R. F. SMITH, JR.
W. R. WAGONER
JOHN T. WAYLAND

MINISTERS OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH 1942-1992

WILLIAM BYRD
A. B. COOK, JR.
PEGGY NICHOLS FOISTER
TRIPP MAY
JIMMIE MIZE
ALAN RICHEY
ROBERT WAINWRIGHT

INTERIM MINISTERS OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH 1942-1992

CLIFFODEAN BOYD
MARGARET FOSTER
VIVIAN GREENE
KIMBERLY LANEY
TANA MORROW

MINISTERS OF MUSIC, 1942 - 1992

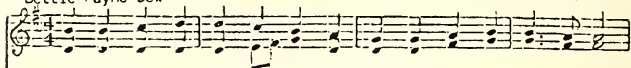
JAY ANDERSON (ORGANIST)
LIN BRATCHER (ORGANIST AND DIRECTOR)
MARIE DAVIS (ORGANIST)
BETH HILL (ORGANIST)
JERRY HILL (DIRECTOR)
GRACE L. KILBY (DIRECTOR)
JIMMIE MIZE (DIRECTOR)
ELLIHU SLOAN (ORGANIST & DIRECTOR)
ELSIE WELBORN (ORGANIST)
J. GREGORY WRIGHT (ORGANIST & DIRECTOR)

Onward Through the Nineties

HYMN TO JOY. 8. 7. 8. 7. D.

Arr. from LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN, 1770-1827

Bettie Payne Dew



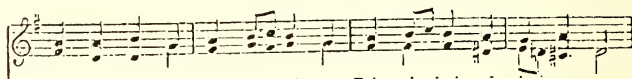
1. Onward, Onward through the nineties We have been one hun-dred years.
2. Southern Baptists through the ages That has been our her -i- tage.
3. Lo-cal mis-sion over at Northside They have come a long, long way.



. True to teach and preach the gospel Willing hearts to reach each need.

Lot-tie Moon and An-nie Arm-strong Two great offerings every year.

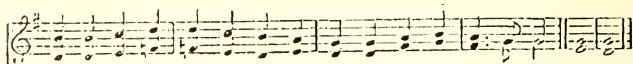
Sunbeam children learning of missions From Mrs. Payne who taught them well.



There were Browning, Wayland, and Wagoner Rogers, Smith, and Kincheloe.

Lun-da Hen-dren with the chil-dren Sunday evenings in B T U.

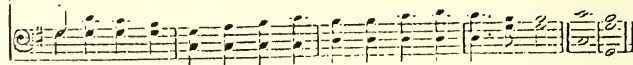
There were G.A.'s, R.A.'s and Sword Drills Caswell each Summer and Ridgcrest, to



Mighty preachers leading ev-er To pro-claim his Mighty Word.

Mrs. Kil-by led the choir As they sang such happy notes.

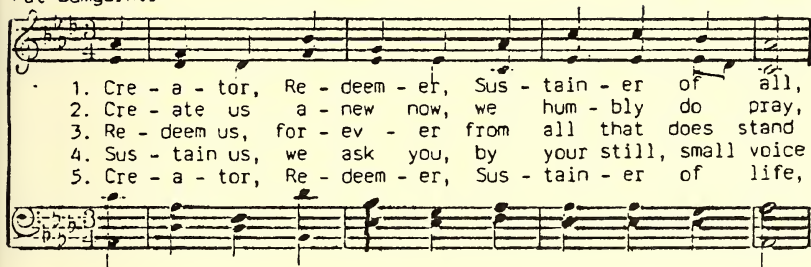
Great adventures to spark each interest As we came to know God's love.



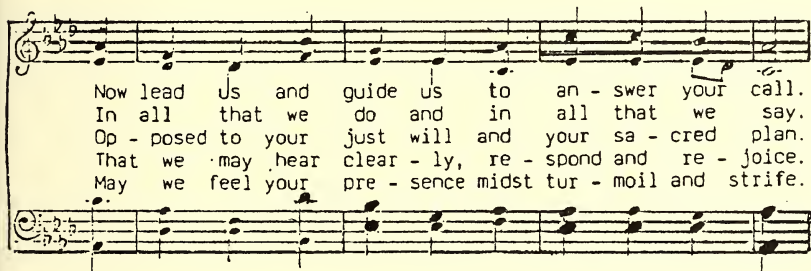
Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer
(Immortal, Invisible)
JOANNA 11. 11. 11. 11.

Pat Bumgarner

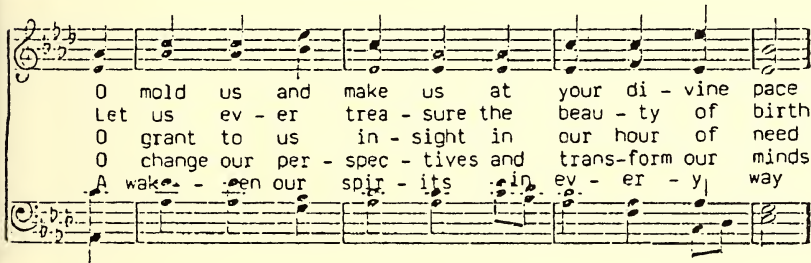
Welsh Hymn Melody



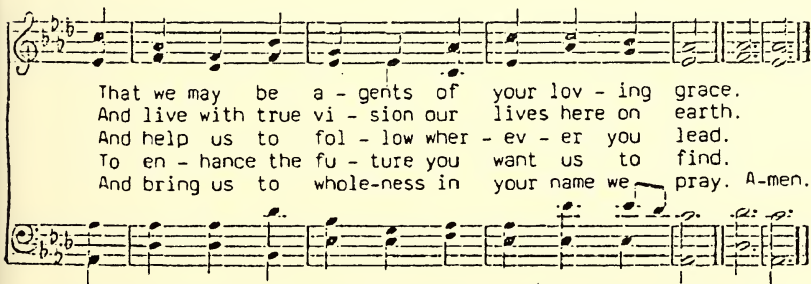
1. Cre - a - tor, Re - deem - er, Sus - tain - er of all,
2. Cre - ate us a - new now, we hum - bly do pray,
3. Re - deem us, for - ev - er from all that does stand
4. Sus - tain us, we ask you, by your still, small voice
5. Cre - a - tor, Re - deem - er, Sus - tain - er of life,



Now lead us and guide us to an - swer your call.
In all that we do and in all that we say.
Op - posed to your just will and your sa - cred plan.
That we may hear clear - ly, re - spond and re - joice.
May we feel your pre - sence midst tur - moil and strife.



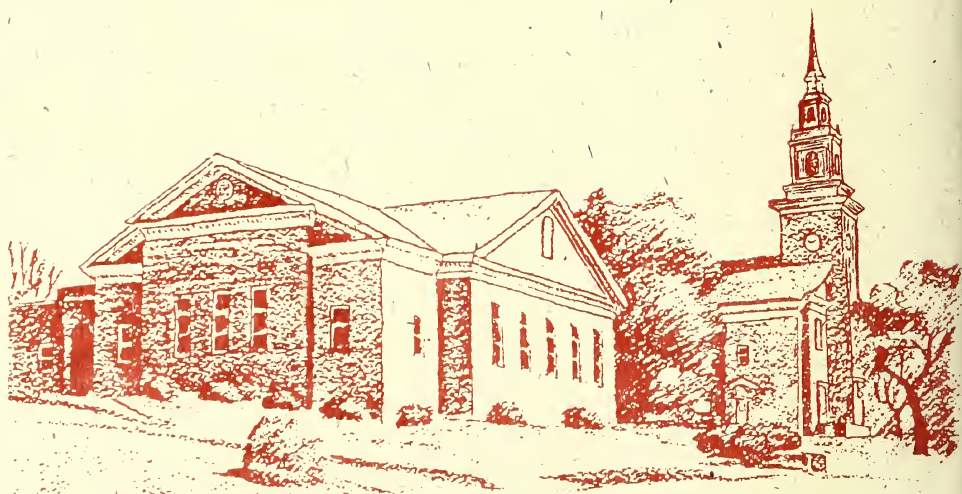
O mold us and make us at your di - vine pace
Let us ev - er trea - sure the beau - ty of birth
O grant to us in - sight in our hour of need
O change our per - spec - tives and trans - form our minds
A wake - een our spir - its in ev - er - y way



That we may be a - gents of your lov - ing grace.
And live with true vi - sion our lives here on earth.
And help us to fol - low wher - ev - er you lead.
To en - hance the fu - ture you want us to find.
And bring us to whole - ness in your name we pray. A-men.

Copyright. Used by permission of the Representative of the late W. Chalmers Smith and the Oxford University Press





543 SF BR 2202
06/17/97 48670 SALE



